URBAN NATURE PLANS +

D1.1 - State of Play Report for each partner city

Work Package 1

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Abstract	This document presents five State of Play Reports for the UNP+ cities of Barcelona, Paris, Belgrade, Burgas, and Mannheim, offering a snapshot of their progress in implementing the Urban Nature Plan framework. These reports aim to support the cities' efforts in enhancing urban ecosystems and serve as a baseline for the technical support that the UNP+ project will provide to the cities in year two of the project.
Keywords	Urban Nature Plans, Lighthouse Cities, Greening Cities, State of Play, Barcelona, Paris, Belgrade, Burgas, Mannheim

EDITOR'S NOTE

This deliverable introduces Urban Nature Plans and how five cities are working with the Urban Nature Plan framework. This document brings together five individual narrative State of Play Reports, which were developed and written in partnership with UNP+ city representatives from Barcelona, Paris, Belgrade, Burgas, and Mannheim. Each report is a snapshot in time of the city's status related to the development of an Urban Nature Plan. The 'State of Play Reports' provide insight into each city's approach to developing an Urban Nature Plan, progress along each of the steps in developing an Urban Nature Plan, and highlight future areas of work to improve and enhance the city's Urban Nature Plan. UNP+ project partners from UEL and TCD contributed to the methodology and content development, and the document was reviewed by project partners from UH, CEUS, SLU, Tecnalia, and Polimi. These State of Play Reports provide the foundation for work in year two of the UNP+ project, focusing on testing the Urban Nature Plan framework and providing technical support to the cities.

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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2	31st December 2024	Submitted version	Editing, formatting and typo fixing

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Why State of Play Reports, why now?

Cities, regions, and towns have an important role to play in ensuring a high quality of life for people, plants, and nature. As cities face challenges like climate change, population growth, and biodiversity loss, integrating nature into the urban landscape is becoming more critical. The Biodiversity Strategy 2030 calls for European towns and cities with a population of at least 20,000 to establish an Urban Greening Plan (now called an Urban Nature Plan). This aligns well with the newly adopted Nature Restoration Regulation (aka Nature Restoration Law) that sets binding targets for restoring 20% of the EU's degraded ecosystems by 2030, and 100% by 2050 and requires Member States to develop National Nature Restoration Plans. These EU policy frameworks provide support and further empowerment for sustainable development, which cities have been advancing for decades. In turn, local and regional level Urban Nature Plans are positioned to support the EU in meeting their international commitments of the UN Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework agreed at the 2022 UN biodiversity conference (COP15).

This report explores how five European cities - Barcelona, Spain; Belgrade, Serbia; Burgas, Bulgaria; Paris, France and Mannheim, Germany - are approaching the development and recognition of having an Urban Nature Plan in place. Urban Nature Plans (UNPs) are a local framework that supports municipalities to integrate their work across departments in order to meet their social and environmental goals and commitments. Urban Nature Plans create, consolidate, and curate information, plans, data, visions and goals on a local municipal level. The five cities participating in the Urban Nature Plans Plus (UNP+) project are helping to further develop the concept of Urban Nature Plans - what they are and what tools, guidance, and capacities are needed to achieve them. At the same time, UNP+ cities and other consortium partners are working together to document and enhance the local work being done to establish Urban Nature Plans.

How to use this document

This document is designed for two purposes 1) to support researchers and cities involved in the UNP+ project with a detailed examination of how the UNP+ cities - Barcelona, Belgrade, Burgas, Paris, and Mannheim—are advancing UNPs as local frameworks for integrating environmental and social objectives across municipal departments, 2) provide examples of how to approach the development of a UNP to cities, regions, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in developing greener, more biodiverse and inclusive urban and peri-urban landscapes.

This document introduces the concept of Urban Nature Plans as a strategic framework that brings together information, plans, and goals to promote biodiverse, sustainable urban development. By highlighting examples from five European cities, the document provides a comprehensive overview of how municipalities can integrate nature into their urban landscapes. Even if you are not part of the UNP+ project, this report can inspire and inform your efforts to adopt or advocate for Urban Nature Plans as a means of achieving local, national, and international sustainability objectives.

What is an Urban Nature Plan?

In the UNP+ project, an Urban Nature Plan is a framework, which can be understood as an iterative management process, a planning process, or a concrete plan itself. Ultimately, it is some combination of all three. In this report we share examples from cities that approach a UNP as a planning process that results in an Urban Nature Plan (Barcelona, Belgrade, Burgas), as well as from cities that engage with the UNP framework as a way to bring together goals and initiatives from a variety of plans in order to achieve synergies and efficient use of resources (Paris, Mannheim). Regardless of the approach, core to having a UNP in place is the commitment to meaningfully and appropriately engage stakeholders (including multiple city departments) in co-creation. This requires tailoring communication about urban nature to a variety of audiences, and ultimately transforming urban spaces into biodiverse, healthier, and more resilient areas for future generations.

The UNP+ project is testing the UNP framework to better understand how it can be applied, what it needs to contain and how to communicate about it in order for cities to realise more nature positive, biodiverse, planning and implementation. Therefore, the answer to the question 'What is an Urban Nature Plan?' is a development in process, which will continue to evolve and which the UNP+ project will continue to engage with until the end of 2026.

Table 1 highlights the starting point of the UNP+ project's understanding of the additional benefit that a UNP offers, compared to existing greening policies.

Table 1: How does a UNP differ from other plans and polices?

Existing urban greening policies	Urban Nature Plans
Dedicated plans that imply different aspects of greening (ie. climate adaptation strategies, green infrastructure strategy)	Holistic overview integrating all relevant strategies, policies and non-governmental actions for a clear framework of biodiverse urban nature (including green space)
Planning focus on recreational benefits of urban nature for people (eg. providing recreational spaces and parks, access to green space and planning standards per capita)	Recognizing the importance and multiple co-benefits of urban nature for people and nature
Sectoral planning with limited collaboration with other departments	Cross-departmental planning and mainstreaming based on the integrated management system (see ISO37101)
Focus on individual parks and gardens to the detriment of creating green corridors of green spaces	Connectivity as a core aspect of planning
Focus on green infrastructure functionality to the detriment of biodiverse ecosystems	Focus on integrating biodiversity and green space into multifunctional green infrastructure solutions
Focus on headline vision to the detriment of clear actions and measurable results	Results-oriented planning through the development of quantitative and qualitative targets and actions
Citizen engagement or participatory planning processes may be used to different degrees and the process might occur in different phases of the decision-making process	Centred around co-creation processes for stakeholder engagement from the beginning of the planning process, collaborative governance schemes and social innovation
Do not focus on addressing challenges related to racial or socio-demographic injustices	Encourage an approach of environmental justice, utilizing NbS (Nature Based Solutions) planning to reduce social inequities

How were the State of Play Reports developed?

The State of Play Report for each city was developed based on a written and verbal self-assessment process completed by each city in collaboration with UNP+ project partners from ICLEI, Trinity College Dublin, and University of East London. This written and verbal self-assessment was designed to encourage dialogue about urban nature within a city. Its goal was to either confirm the presence of an existing Urban Nature Plan framework or identify the additional steps necessary to establish one and motivate the city to do so.

First, a self-assessment questionnaire was completed by the UNP+ city representative in collaboration with their colleagues - experts and decision makers focusing on the topic of nature and biodiversity or in an interdisciplinary team. Initially developed by ICLEI Europe as part of a service contract with the European Commission Director General for the Environment (DG ENV), the self-assessment questionnaire is a response to cities' requests

for a process to understand if they have the necessary components in place to state that they have an Urban Nature Plan in their city. The self-assessment form was expanded for the purpose of the UNP+ project by adding questions about environmental, social justice and ecosystem services, and the experiences of city representatives in order to capture inputs relevant to knowledge generation for the project (WP2), pathways for justice (T1.4), and establishing the dynamic learning agenda for each city (WP4) (see Annex: Self Assessment Questionnaire).

Next, the completed self-assessment questionnaires were analysed and discussed by ICLEI, University of England London, and Trinity College Dublin together and with representatives of each city to verify the accuracy of the information provided. Inputs were also reviewed for similarities and differences between cities, which are articulated in the dynamic learning agendas contained in D4.2 Establishing a Greening Cities Baseline and in D1.2 Case Studies. Together, these three reports (State of Play Reports, the Greening Cities Baseline, and the Case Studies) set the groundwork for what the Cities will focus on in the UNP+ project (see also section: City State of Play Reports). Additional follow up took the form of collaborative writing into a shared self-assessment document and this report, as well as conversations via email and ad-hoc video meetings between project partners and cities. The process did not include a detailed or in-depth review of specific methodologies or plans referenced by cities due to language differences and the volume of plans and activities referenced. Ultimately, the State of Play Report relies on the expertise and knowledge of each city.

From updating the self-assessment questionnaire to finalising the reports, the methodology for each State of Play Report was aligned with the methodology for D1.2 Case Studies and D4.2 Establishing a Greening Cities Baseline. The self-assessment process was planned to start in October 2024. However, due to the timelines of the other reports, this was moved forward to the Spring of 2024 and completed in November 2024. The assessment process was enhanced to include in-depth discussions (unstructured interviews) with individual cities and UNP+ project partners working on all three reports - ICLEI Europe, University of England London, and Trinity College Dublin. ICLEI complemented this information gathering with further desk research.

Core Aspects of an Urban Nature Plan

The self-assessment questions (see : Self Assessment) are categorised by the core aspects needed to have an Urban Nature Plan in place (as determined as part of the service contract between ICLEI and DG ENV in 2022), these align with the milestones and steps of a UNP process based on ISO37101 standards (see Table 2).

Core aspects of an Urban Nature Plan:

- co-creation process (steps 1-3)
- baseline inventory (step 5)
- long-term vision/goals/targets (steps 1-4)
- action plan (steps 4 - 8)
- monitoring and reporting (step 9)
- mainstreaming nature as a priority (steps 5-6)
- communication (step 8)

In certain instances, these steps may already be familiar to cities or partially addressed, particularly if other frameworks are already in place through prior planning efforts, such as climate change adaptation plans, sustainable urban mobility plans, or sustainable energy and climate plans. Consequently, these steps can be viewed as flexible guidelines that can be adjusted and incorporated to suit the specific local context.
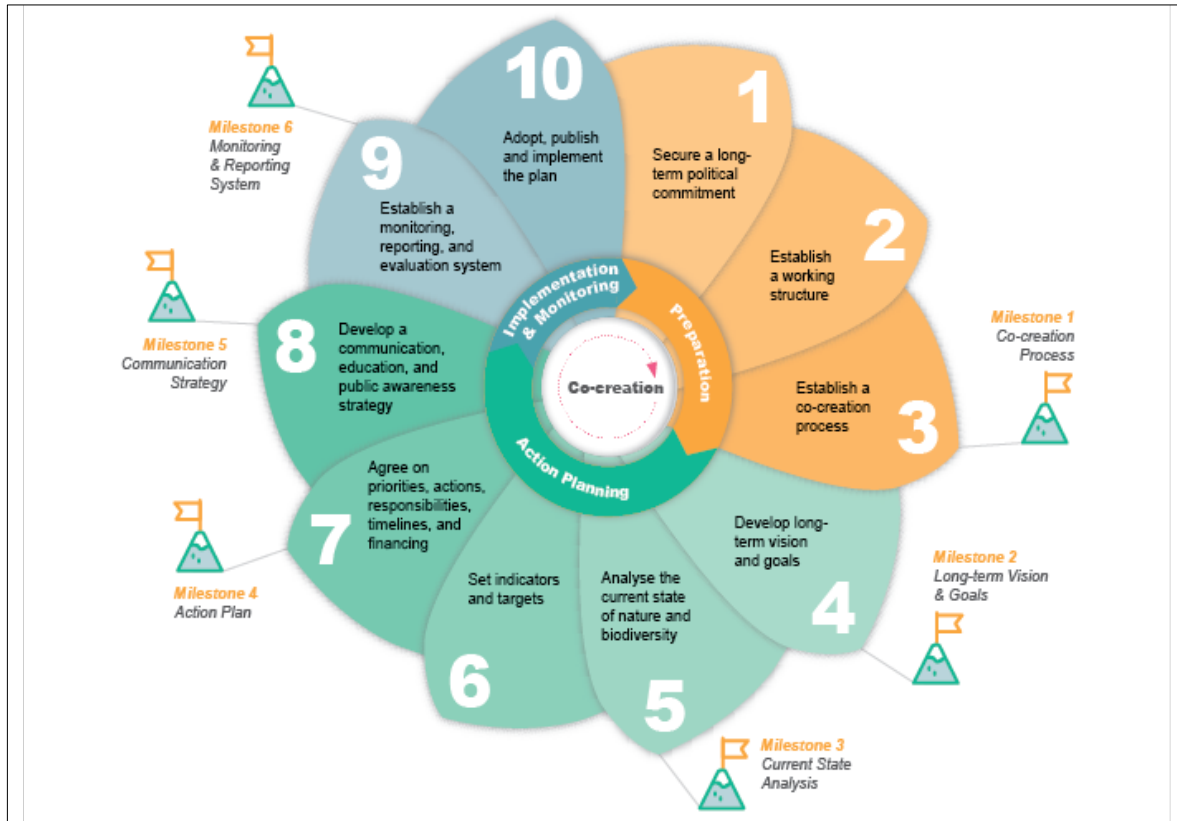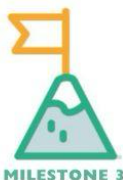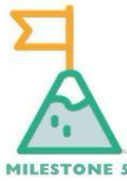
Figure 1: UNP stepwise process

Table 2: UNP process

Milestones	Steps	Core Aspects						
Co-creation process MILESTONE 1	Step 1: Secure a long-term political commitment: Securing the commitment and support of political leaders to secure the initiative's backing and resources. Step 2: Establish a working structure: Establishing a framework that defines roles, responsibilities and governance to manage the project effectively. Step 3: Establish a Co-creation process: Engaging stakeholders, including community members, experts and organisations, to develop the plan together.	Co-creation process		Long-term vision/goals/targets				
Long-term vision and goals MILESTONE 2	Step 4: Develop a long-term vision and goals: Creat a comprehensive vision and setting clear, achievable goals for the future state of urban nature and biodiversity.	Co-creation process		Long-term vision/goals/targets	Action plan			
Current State Analysis MILESTONE 3	Step 5: Analyse the current state of nature and biodiversity: Assess and document the existing state of nature and biodiversity in the urban area.	Co-creation process	Baseline inventory		Action plan		Mainstreaming nature as a priority	

Action Plan MILESTONE 4	Step 6: Set indicators and targets: Identify specific metrics to measure progress and set target outcomes to achieve the Plan's objectives. Step 7: Agree on priorities, actions, responsibilities, timelines and funding: Outline key priorities, necessary actions, assigned responsibilities, timelines for implementation, and sources of funding.				(green)		(orange)	
Communication Strategy MILESTONE 5	Step 8: Develop a communication, education and public awareness strategy: Develop strategies to inform, educate and engage the public and stakeholders about the plan and its benefits.				(green)			Communication (green)
Monitoring and Reporting System MILESTONE 6	Step 9: Establish a monitoring, reporting and evaluation system: Establish a system to track progress, report on developments and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions implemented.					(yellow)		
No correlating milestone	Step 10: Adoption, publication and implementation of the plan: Finalising, publicising and implementing the urban nature plan.	Co-creation process (orange)				Monitoring /Reporting (yellow)		Communication (green)

How are the State of Play Reports Shaping the UNP+ Project?

The State of Play Reports in this document provide a snapshot of where and how the UNP+ cities are starting the UNP+ project in relation to understanding the Urban Nature Plan framework. They also detail each city's progress along the core aspects of an Urban Nature Plan, including co-creation, baseline inventory, long-term vision/goals/targets, action plan, monitoring and reporting, mainstreaming nature, and communication, as well as the steps of the Urban Nature Plan process. Each report is a co-assessment created with the partner cities to validate the existence of an Urban Nature Plan in Lighthouse Cities (Paris, Barcelona); and identify the alignment of existing instruments, activities, priorities and opportunities for in-depth work in Greening Cities (Mannheim, Belgrade, Burgas). Together, these five narratives form part of a suite of deliverables that determine the baseline for the cities' work in the UNP+ project, including D1.1 State of Play report for each partner City, D1.2 Case Studies and D4.2 Establishing a Greening Cities Baseline.

The self-assessment process for Lighthouse and Greening Cities played a crucial role in informing the state of play reports by providing detailed insights into each city's achievements and opportunities in urban nature planning. The objectives of the self-assessment for both Lighthouse and Greening Cities are summarized in Table 3 . For Lighthouse Cities, the process emphasized verifying the existence of an Urban Nature Plan, capturing current activities to support case study development, and identifying opportunities for collaboration and learning with other cities in the project. For Greening Cities, the self-assessment focused on evaluating urban nature planning achievements, identifying collaboration opportunities with UNP+ project partners and cities, determining key topics for partnership with the consortium, and initiating a collaborative working structure between the city and the consortium.

Table 3: Purpose of the self-assessment process for Lighthouse and Greening Cities

Lighthouse City	Greening City
Validate the existence of a UNP	Understand what has been achieved in regard to planning for nature in the urban environment
Capture a snapshot of activities in regard to nature in the urban environment and support the development of case studies	Identify areas for collaboration and strengthening the urban nature-related activities in Greening Cities
Identify continuous learning and sharing opportunities	Inform which topics the Greening Cities will work on with the UNP+ consortium

Content wise, the results of both exercises have contributed to the UNP+ deliverables due at M12 (December 2024) namely D1.1 State of Play Report for each UNP City (this document), D1.2 Case Studies, and D4.2 Reflexive Monitoring Baseline. While this document

captures a narrative of the five UNP+ cities in relation to core elements, milestones and steps of the UNP process, more synthesis and categorisation of information is contained in the other deliverables in this 'suite.' Particularly D4.2 looks at the information provided by cities (as well as additional reflexive information gathered) and then groups cities based around specific learnings and challenges. Meanwhile, D1.2 Case Studies synthesises challenges, enabling factors, and best practices from multiple cities.

Within these deliverables are the key activities and mechanisms needed for UNP+ cities to increase their capacity to develop and implement high quality Urban Nature Plans. This suite of deliverables will help connect the cities with technical support from the project consortium (T1.3) and identify how the cities' learnings relate and contribute to specific tasks in the UNP+ project, which will be brought forth into Urban Nature Exchanges, Knowledge Labs, the Capacity Building Programme and Reflexive Monitoring Process (which in turn guides the work of WPs 2, 3,4, 5, and 6).

> **Urban Nature Exchanges** are peer-to-peer exchanges between the partner cities - Lighthouse and Greening Cities. The State of Play report serves as a foundation for city-to-city exchanges because it identifies common challenges and areas of innovation to overcome challenges developed by individual cities.

> The **Knowledge Labs** transfer synthesised, evidence-based knowledge to cities to help them address their self-identified focus areas. The understanding of the 'starting point' of each UNP+ city, provided by the State of Play report, will help to shape the focus and work within the Knowledge Labs.

> The **UNP+ Capacity Building Programme** will support European cities and towns to develop and implement Urban Nature Plans. The focus areas in the State of Play report will help shape activities and materials to support the UNP+ cities and other cities in Europe.

The UNP+ cities will also engage in a Reflexive Monitoring Process (see D4.2) to accompany their work in the project and help them further identify emerging focus areas and critical learning opportunities. This document, and the process of assembling it, has helped set the baseline understanding for where cities are, where they want to go, the identification of learning opportunities, as well as expertise cities can share with their peers.

Figure 2 shows the relationship between Urban Nature Exchanges, Reflexive Monitoring Process, Knowledge Labs, and other Work Packages.
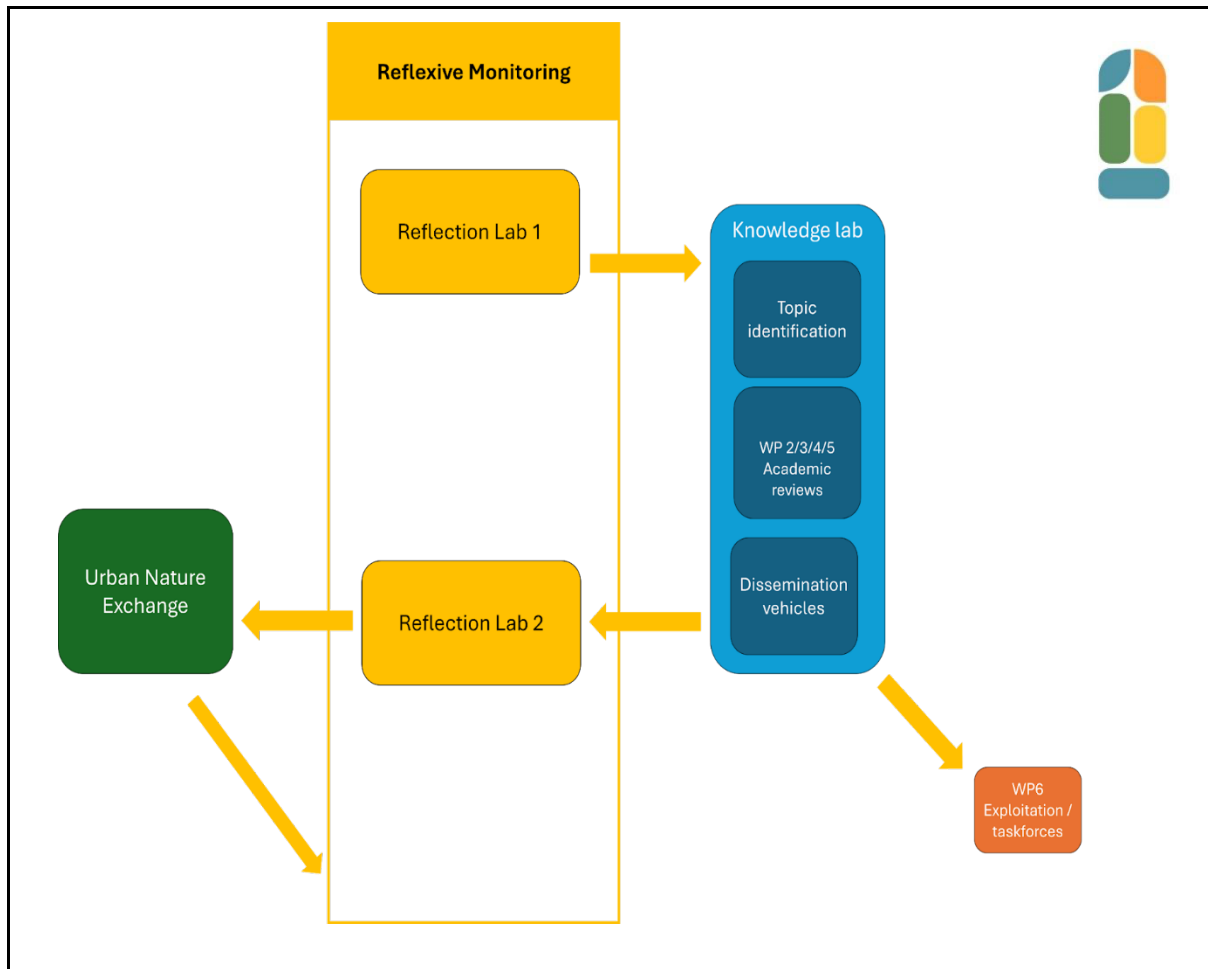
Figure 2: Diagram of the relationship between Urban Nature Exchanges, Reflexive Monitoring Process, Knowledge Labs, and other Work Packages

Urban Nature Exchange = City-to-city learning event, focused on topics where cities need support and/or can offer their experiences about a UNP step.

Reflection Lab = Mentoring opportunity for cities to discuss their Reflexive Monitoring learnings with academic mentors, focused on topics where cities have the greatest challenges and/or require the most support.

Knowledge Lab = Capacity building opportunity for cities with academics sharing examples of good practice and scientific evidence, and gaining further knowledge from the city experiences to be transferred back again to the Reflection Lab and further disseminated and exploited.

What focus areas are highlighted in the State of Play Reports?

As a result of analysing the self-assessment questionnaires, reflexive monitoring baseline assessment (D4.2), and case studies (D1.2), it is clear that within the UNP+ project the focus of more in-depth exchange, technical support and capacity building will include a strong focus on establishing a working structure and co-creation (milestone 1, steps 2 and 3) and the 'action planning' phase (milestones 2-5, steps 4 to 8) of the UNP process. Table 4 shows the

milestones and steps where cities see their strengths, and which areas they would like to improve/receive support on.

Certain focus areas are relevant to all cities, while others are highly relevant to some and less to others. For example, all cities are struggling with establishing indicators and targets, internal/external communication, and budgeting/financing implementation and maintenance over the long-term. Furthermore, during the analysis of the assessments, it became clear that there is a range of understanding and use of the term 'co-creation.' Justice and equity related activities and initiatives received little attention. These are gaps, which the UNP+ project could support the cities to fill-in. Table 4 shows this in more detail below.

Thematic foci to fill gaps identified as part of the self-assessment process

- Understanding co-creation (-design, -management, -maintenance)
- Embedding justice and equity into Urban Nature Plans
- Indicators and targets
- Budgeting/financing for implementation and long-term maintenance

Table 4: UNP milestones and steps where cities see themselves excelling (green), ready to improve on (blue), or need support to take the next step (orange)

Steps and Milestones	Mannheim	Burgas	Belgrade	Paris	Barcelona
establish a co-creation process/working structure (milestone 1; steps 2 & 3)	green	blue	blue	blue	blue
long-term vision and goals (milestone 2, step 4)	orange	orange	blue		blue
establish a current state analysis (milestone 3, step 5)	green	orange	orange		blue
develop an action plan (milestone 4, steps 6&7)	orange	orange	blue		blue
establishing indicators and targets (step 6)				blue	
create a communication plan/external comms (milestone 5, step 8)	orange	orange	orange		blue
monitoring and reporting system (milestone 6, step 9)					blue
Staff training and capacity building	orange	orange	orange	orange	orange

Legend:
- green = Achieved
- blue = Achieved, wants to improve
- orange = Support needed

City State of Play Reports

Each City participating in the UNP+ project - Barcelona, Paris, Belgrade, Burgas, and Mannheim - have collaborated to develop a narrative of their 'state of play' related to urban nature and the Urban Nature Plan framework. Each of the following City State of Play Reports contains:

- An orientation to the City's state of play report, including a summary of the Urban Nature Plan milestones achieved (see Core Aspects of an Urban Nature Plan)

- A brief introduction to the City

- A description of progress along each of the Urban Nature Plan steps

- Areas of focus in the UNP+ project

- A summary statement

- An annotated list of sources and further resources

The format of each State of Play Report is slightly different, reflecting the local context and emphasis provided by City representatives during the self-assessment process described in the 'How were the State of Play Reports developed?' section. One main difference is that within the section 'Progress along each of the UNP Steps' for the Lighthouse Cities - Barcelona and Paris - there is a text summarising the work the city has completed to meet the requirements of an Urban Nature Plan; in the same section for the Greening Cities' reports - Belgrade, Burgas, and Mannheim - there is a table summarising the progress towards milestones, rather than a narrative text.

State of Play Report - Barcelona

The City of Barcelona has fulfilled the requirements to meet all the milestones of the Urban Nature Plan framework (see Figure 4). This State of Play report describes why and how the city meets the UNP requirements, as well as the status of their continuous improvement process and the focus of their current work. The requirements to qualify as having an Urban Nature Plan are met pre-eminently through the Barcelona Nature Plan 2030. Additional plans and strategies complement this work (see Barcelona's action planning section below, steps 4-8, for more detail).

Introduction to the City
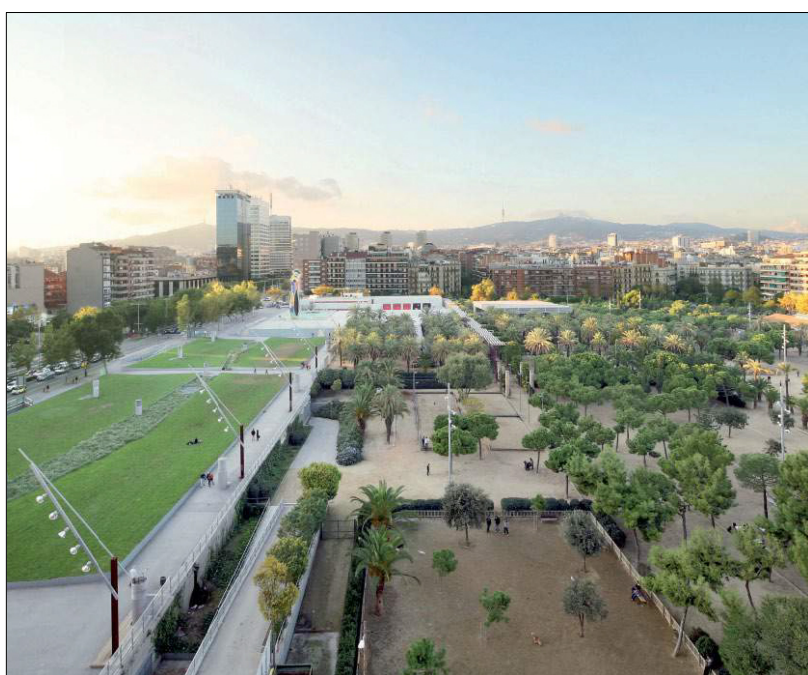
Figure 3: Parc de Joan Miró (Barcelona Regional)

Barcelona lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Serra de Collserola mountain range and has over 1.7 million inhabitants, with a metropolitan population of over 5.8 million. It is the second most populated city in Spain/Iberian Peninsula, and the tenth in the European Union. The city has 2,870 hectares of public green space, 41% of which is dedicated to urban green areas and the rest to the forests of the Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola.

Barcelona City is facing major challenges, including climate change and urban density management, and is committed to finding solutions that balance environmental sustainability with social well-being, ensuring a healthy and liveable urban environment for generations to come. The city seeks to maximise social and environmental services, while fostering biodiversity, adapting to the challenges of climate change, and ensuring the health of its floral, faunal, and human populations.

This bold model for sustainable urban development is described in the Barcelona Natura Plan 2030, which defines the municipal government and citizens' commitments to the conservation of greenery and biological diversity. These commitments are reflected in projects such as the Glòries Park, the Marina del Prat Vermell Central Park, and others designed with sustainable climate adaptation solutions. The Glòries Park, for example, was designed specifically to foster and protect biodiversity. The park stands out from other spaces in Barcelona: it has spaces to enjoy nature, sports areas, biodiversity nodes, rain gardens, recreational spaces adapted for

people with reduced mobility, and areas for dogs. It is the new green lung of the city, occupying part of a space that was once entirely dedicated to road traffic.

Barcelona is working towards an urban landscape with integrated functional and ecological green infrastructure that is fairly distributed across the urban fabric and accessible to all.

> **Barcelona's Urban Nature Plan Goals (page 90)**
>
> 1. Increase the city's green infrastructure and thereby maximise its services.
>
> 2. Conserve and promote biodiversity, protecting species and improving their habitats and connectivity.
>
> 3. Deploy and consolidate ecological management and naturalisation in nature management.
>
> 4. Develop knowledge, enjoyment and care of urban nature and to facilitate and promote citizen involvement in its conservation and improvement.

The Barcelona Natura Plan 2030 aligns with and meets the requirements for an Urban Nature Plan as described on the Urban Nature Platform and as understood by project partners in the UNP+ project. The following sections illustrate how the City of Barcelona meets the requirements of an Urban Nature Plan, what contributes to the success of the city's work towards a socially and environmentally balanced urban environment, best practices, lessons learned and open questions the city continues to engage with as part of this iterative, adaptive management process.

Progress along each of the UNP Steps

This section summarises the City's responses from the self-assessment process, complemented with desk research by ICLEI and inputs from City representatives. Each section is one of the phases of the Urban Nature Plan framework: co-creation and preparation, action planning, and implementation and monitoring. The sections contain a brief description about how, or why not, the City has met the associated milestones of the Urban Nature Plan framework, a short dive into the place-based specifics of

Figure 4: UNP process

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each section, quotes, and lessons learned.

In **Co-creation and Preparation (milestone 1, steps 1-3)**, The Barcelona Natura Plan 2030 exemplifies co-creation through its comprehensive participatory process, mandated by a formal decree, which brought together city departments, NGOs, research centres, and citizens across multiple stages to shape its goals and actions. By combining a small internal steering group with extensive public engagement, including co-design sessions, technical scenario building, and the Decidim platform for citizen input, Barcelona successfully fostered collaboration and shared ownership in developing long-term strategies for biodiversity and greenery.

Moving into **Action Planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4-8)**, Barcelona aligns its biodiversity vision with actionable strategies in city-wide plans. The Barcelona Natura Plan 2030 integrates spatial and social data, equity-focused green space analysis, ecosystem service monitoring, and biodiversity documentation, while linking to broader municipal and regional sustainability initiatives, ensuring robust groundwork for sustainable urban nature management.

Finally, through **Mainstreaming, Monitoring, and Reporting (milestone 6, steps 9-10**), Barcelona embeds urban greenery and biodiversity priorities across multiple municipal plans, such as the Nature 2030 Plan, Tree Master Plan, and Climate Emergency Action Plan, ensuring interdisciplinary collaboration and integration across departments. The city also enforces standards through tools like the Green Charter, while maintaining a comprehensive database of indicators to monitor progress, with periodic reporting every three years to track and enhance its efforts.

Co-creation and preparation (milestone 1, steps 1 – 3)

Barcelona's commitment to urban nature and biodiversity is exemplified through its comprehensive approach to co-creation and participatory planning during the development of the Barcelona Natura Plan 2030. The combination of the city's planning committee and the formally decreed participatory process meets the requirement of having a co-creation process in place, milestone 1 of the UNP process (see Sources).
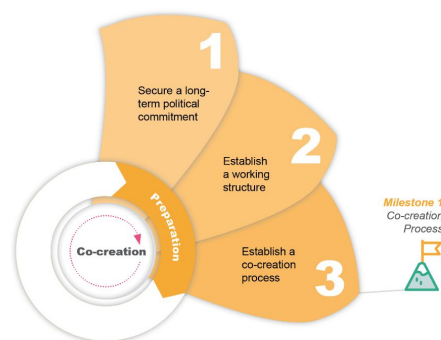
Figure 5: Steps 1-3 of the UNP process

About co-creation and the UNP preparation phase in Barcelona

The City has a mandatory participatory planning process, established with a formal decree. The citizen engagement co-creation process carried out during the different phases of preparing the Barcelona Natura 2030 plan included public actors, technicians from different departments, citizens, research centres and other administrations and organizations related to greenery and biodiversity. Furthermore, the different actions proposed in the plan are periodically updated considering new ideas and input.

The participatory process played a crucial role in drafting the Nature Plan…

Participation took place in several stages, allowing for the sharing of analyses, agreement on long-term goals and challenges, and the gathering of proposals on biodiversity and greenery to shape the action plan. The stages were: internal (city) work based on the experience of implementing the previous plan; co-designing the new plan with various City Council services; conducting a technical comparison of actions and projects with external experts from involved organizations; and engaging citizens to enrich the entire plan.

Barcelona Nature Plan 2021 - 2030, page 9

A key factor in the success of the Barcelona Natura Plan 2030 was the combination of a small internal planning committee and broad participatory processes involving city departments, agencies, private organizations, and NGOs. The city first formed a small steering group to guide the process and engage other city departments and the public. They prioritized entities that had previously contributed to the development of the Barcelona Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan 2020 and had a focus on greenery, nature, and biodiversity.

The first stage of the plan was facilitated by the More Sustainable Barcelona Greenery and Biodiversity Work Group, which is connected to the Citizen Sustainability Council. Which in turn is a consultative and participatory group, a subset of the full City Council of Barcelona, that represents the different groups and sectors involved in achieving the goals of the City's Public Commitment for Sustainability; it promotes new strategies for engagement, co-responsibility and participation of citizens' organizations. During the second stage, there was a co-design process with several of the City Council service groups, over a period of six one-day sessions. These sessions consisted of discussions and brought in a total of 71 participants who were informed of the plan's new structure and contributed proposals for specific projects to be implemented by 2030. During the third stage, once several objectives had been defined with a few specific projects for carrying them out, two technical scenario building sessions were created. Participants included not only City Council members but also individuals from other authorities and organisations relating to greenery and biodiversity in Barcelona. Internal technical meetings were also held, involving a total of 42 people. For the broad citizen engagement process, the planning team opened a 'creation and debate' space on Decidim platform and hosted two information and discussion sessions with citizens in general. The digital participation platform Decidim is a digital infrastructure that provides city residents with access to Barcelona City Council's various participation mechanisms, such as processes, bodies and citizens' initiatives, and offers them the possibility of participating online in their own time, thus promoting better time management for those interested in taking part in city decisions. The platform offers direct lines of communication to various Council departments and City staff, it is managed by the City and actively used by citizens. The Decidim platform has been recognised as a finalist for the award for open-source initiatives created by or for public administrations in Europe.

Participants in drafting the Nature Plan 2021-2030 included:

- Barcelona Public Health Agency (ASPB)
- Area of Urban Ecology (UE)
- Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)
- Barcelona Cicle de l'Aigua (BCASA)
- Barcelona Regional (BR)
- Ecological Research and Forest Applications Centre (CREAF)
- El Besòs Consortium
- Parc Natural de la Serra de Collserola Consortium
- Barcelona Provincial Council (DIBA)
- Galanthus
- Catalan government
- Catalan Institute of Ornithology (ICO)
- Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA)
- Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGLOBAL)
- Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona (MCNB)
- Barcelona Zoo
- Barcelona Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens (PIJBIM)
- More Sustainable Barcelona Technical Secretariat
- University of Barcelona (UB)
- Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC)
- Nature Conservation Network (XCN)
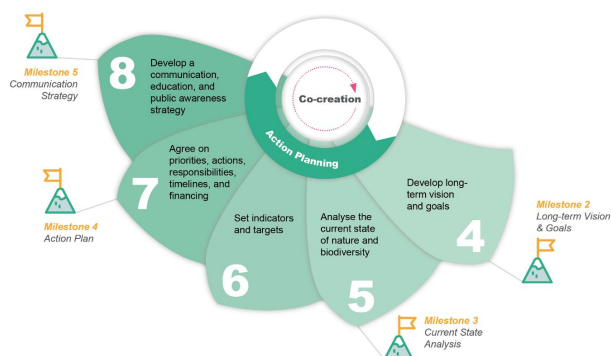
Figure 6: Steps 4-8 in the UNP process

Action planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4 - 8)

The Barcelona Natura Plan 2030 contains a long-term vision and goals, an analysis of the current state of nature and biodiversity, an action plan, and projects related to communication and local awareness raising. Therefore, milestones 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the UNP process have been achieved.

Barcelona's vision for urban nature

The Barcelona Nature Plan 2030 states that it '…is a strategic participatory tool that has the vision of a city in 2050 with a functional and ecological green infrastructure, fairly spread and accessible greenery that is connected to the urban fabric and with a green metropolitan network, in order to maximise social and environmental services, above all those of health and adapting to climate change. This urban nature network is appreciated and conserved as a natural heritage of the Earth and as a benefit for people, present and future generations, who can enjoy the connection with nature and are involved in the creation of green spaces and in the conservation and improvement of biodiversity.'

Lessons learned and open questions

Gardeners play a very important role in the ongoing management and maintenance of urban nature. Ensuring they are trained and receive professional development can help ensure high quality biodiversity - they can interpret fauna and detect injured animals. Supporting the City Council in understanding the need for and importance of ongoing maintenance and monitoring is critical, because it requires long-term financing, which can be a struggle as there are many initiatives and activities competing for budget. Therefore, knowledge and capacity building are needed at both the political and technical levels and is critical for the long-term success of urban nature.

Action planning for Urban Nature in Barcelona

Goal setting and action planning rely on a comprehensive understanding of a city's social, physical, and spatial baseline. In this regard, Barcelona has made significant strides by maintaining an up-to-date stakeholder database and collecting reliable spatial data on various aspects of urban greenery. This includes data on vegetation cover (such as the normalized difference vegetation index, or NDVI), urban trees, street trees, urban green spaces, urban

orchards, tree pits, and public green spaces. However, gaps remain in the data, particularly for green spaces managed by other organizations, such as cemeteries.
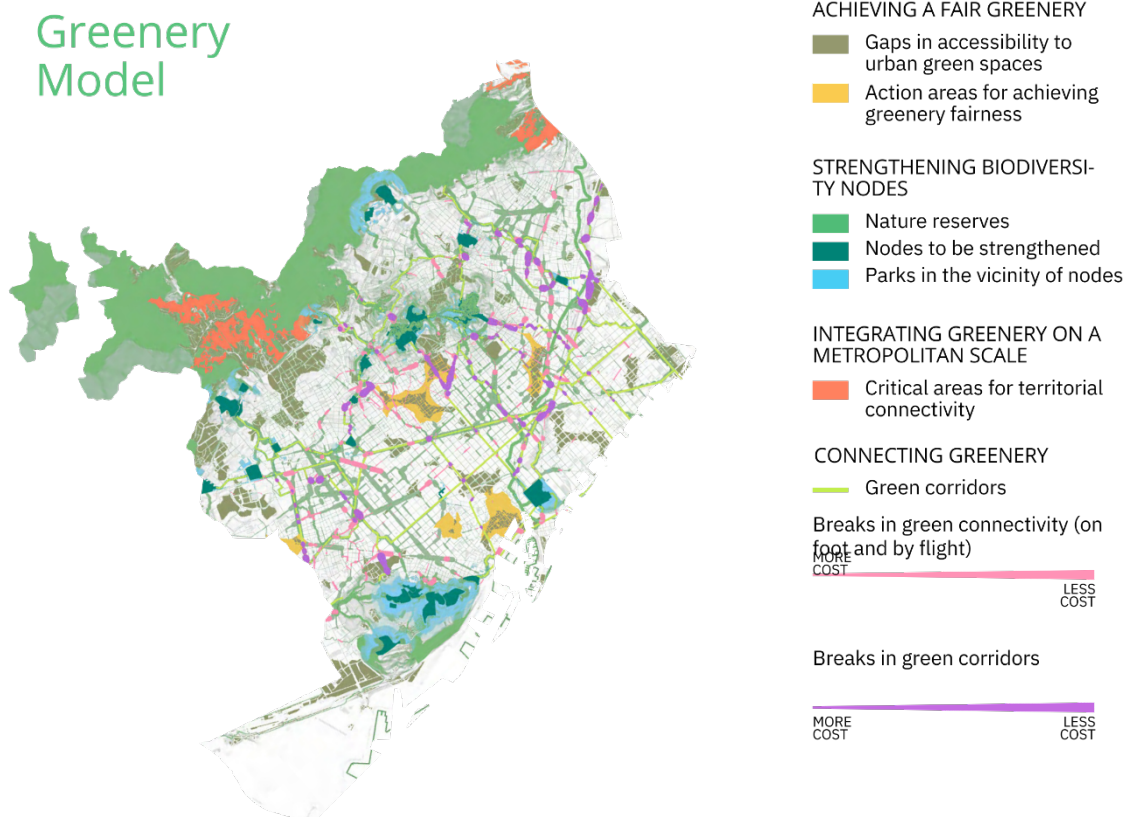
Figure 7: Barcelona's Greenery Model

When planning and maintaining physical spaces, Barcelona not only considers spatial data and vegetation cover but also takes into account the social aspects of these areas. Questions such as: How is the space used? By whom? How frequently? are central to this process. Some spaces are better suited for biodiversity intensification, while others are ideal importance of biodiversity. Action 9 of the City's Plan highlights the need to apply a justice lens in evaluating the city's green space needs. The Plan's assessment of green infrastructure focuses on key issues such as areas with limited access to nature, disruptions in nature connectivity, and opportunities to strengthen biodiverse nodes.

The Greenery Model, part of this analysis, identifies these inequities (see Figure 7) and supports efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of green spaces and the enhancement of biodiversity nodes across the city and its metropolitan region. More detailed information on the Greenery Model can be found in the Barcelona Nature Plan 2030 (pages 38-40). This model offers a holistic view of greenery, providing proposals for re-greening the city, emphasizing fair, connected, and biodiverse green spaces, as well as metropolitan greenery.

Additionally, Ecosystem services (socio-environmental) of urban green spaces are also monitored. A first analysis was carried out in 2018 and a second update was subsequently carried out in 2022. This evaluation involved 360 urban green spaces and measured 29 ecosystem services using the City's own methodology, based on various indicators (see Figure 8).

In maintaining these spaces, it is also crucial to monitor the flora and fauna present. However, due to limited resources—both financial and personnel—this monitoring is not always as thorough as desired. The Barcelona Biodiversity Atlas (Biodiversity Atlas | Barcelona City Council) documents 1,482 species, including birds, butterflies, meadows, fish, crustaceans, and other vertebrates. Despite this, information on their health, populations, and even their presence remains incomplete.

Figure 8: Greenery Methodology
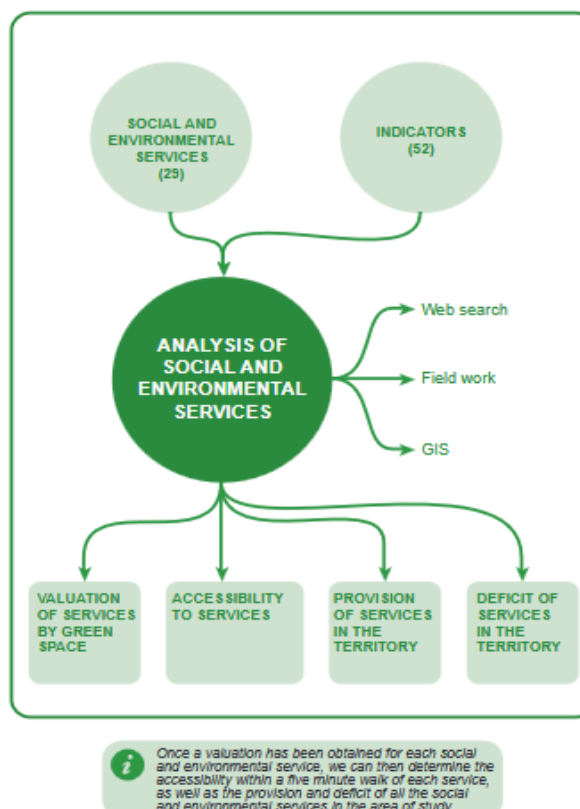
Additional **plans and programs** related to urban nature in Barcelona include:

- Barcelona Tree Master Plan (2017 - 2037)
- The Green Model (within the Nature Plan 2030)
- The Green and Biodiversity Charter (published in 2022)
- Guide to living roofs and green roofs (published 2015)
- Good gardening practices in Barcelona (published 2016)
- Climate Plan 2030
- Urban agriculture strategy (2019-2030)

Finally, the Barcelona Nature Plan includes a review of the city's environmental and sustainability compliance across multiple levels: municipal, metropolitan, regional (Catalonia), national (Spain), and European. Additional details on this can be found in the Barcelona Nature Plan 2030 WEB.pdf (pages 68-69).

Implementation and monitoring (steps 9 and 10)

The Barcelona Nature Plan 2030 includes a monitoring and reporting process and timeline, which meets the requirements for achieving milestone 6, monitoring and reporting system.

Lessons learned and future foci

Many districts, departments and agents are involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of nature in Barcelona. At the City-level, the Barcelona City Council, the Department of Urban Ecology, Department of Parks and Gardens, Department of Environment, and Public Health Department are all directly involved in urban nature management. Additionally, district-level offices work with the central city departments to implement nature-related initiatives such as neighbourhood parks, street greening and urban forestry. Additionally, there are NGOs, local community organisations and private business involved. While this indicates nature's high level of significance and importance and a rather successful mainstreaming program, it makes coordinating and unifying functions and logistics very complicated. For example, monitoring related to fauna requires a specific methodology, periodicity and personnel expertise. With no additional financial, personnel, or technical resources, this makes interdepartmental collaboration a very important function of the city for the long-term quality and health of nature and people in Barcelona.
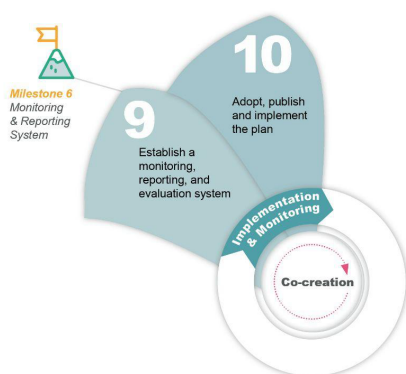
Figure 9: Steps 9-10 in the UNP process

Mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting (milestone 6, steps 9 and 10)

Ensuring that nature and biodiversity are mainstreamed within a city government is a key element of all UNPs. Furthermore, nature must become a priority across departments and treated interdisciplinarily. Barcelona's commitment to changing and transforming the city's urban greenery is present in many plans and strategies, pre-eminently in the Nature 2030 plan, which also links to other municipal plans and tools. Urban nature is also promoted through other municipal strategic tools such as the Tree Master Plan, Action Plan for the 2030 Climate Emergency, Urban Agriculture Strategy, and Hands on Green.

On a policy scale, the "bill of technical prescriptions for the design and execution of green spaces" establishes the City's minimum criteria for green spaces. While the Green Charter, a voluntary methodological instrument, establishes design criteria to enhance the environmental services of the city's green spaces. At an urban level, the Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (in approval phase) establishes planning criteria that obliges transformative projects to comply with certain criteria of vegetation, permeability, or gray infrastructure.

The City maintains a database of objectives and indicators to achieve. Most of them have a reference, baseline, and values for each year. Some indicators have calculation methodologies that are more complicated to achieve, for example, change in hectares of greenery is a simple

way to monitor progress. However, biodiversity monitoring of the green spaces (number of species), is more complicated since some data is missing. Nonetheless, all actions included in the Nature 2030 Plan are monitored. In fact, action 100 in the plan is about carrying out periodic reporting. The indicators and the time frame for each indicator have been established and while regular monitoring is internal, reporting is published every three years.

Areas of focus for the UNP+ project

The City of Barcelona identified several topics and questions they would be willing to engage in as part of the UNP+ project (see list below). Future engagement on the topics could happen through participation in Urban Nature Exchanges, one-on-one conversations with other cities, participation in knowledge and reflection labs, and engagement in communication and outreach activities.

- How can we improve inter-city and cross departmental communication and working structures? E.g. breaking down silos.
- How can cities achieve long-term stewardship of nature considering the long-term goals of the city, or maybe in-spite of them? E.g. financial resources, wild spaces etc.
- How can new political priorities be integrated into an existing nature plan? Or how does mainstreaming of nature safeguard its position as a political priority?
- What does a comparison of different nature budgets from different cities look like? E.g. In Barcelona, they adopted the plan before there was a budget for it and the budget is spread across different departments who are not necessarily responsible for implementing the plan.
- How to access reliable data on privately owned/managed land and work with the private sector?

Summary

Barcelona has successfully fulfilled all milestones of the Urban Nature Plan framework, demonstrating their focus on co-creation, action planning, and implementation. This report highlights not only the city's strategic approach, but also Barcelona's success in integrating their various plans and initiatives. By prioritizing ecological management, equitable green space distribution, and biodiversity conservation, Barcelona balances environmental sustainability with social well-being. The city's ongoing focus on monitoring, collaboration, and adaptive management ensures continuous improvement. Moving forward, Barcelona seeks support and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange to address key challenges, including interdepartmental coordination, long-term stewardship, and enhancing private sector engagement.

Sources

City of Barcelona Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Plan 2020. Online resource: https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/sites/default/files/Barcelona%20green%20infrastructure%20and%20biodiversity%20plan%202020.pdf (accessed November 2024). This document sets out a long-term plan of actions in order to achieve green infrastructure that benefits people and nature.

City of Barcelona Nature Plan. Online resource: https://bcnroc.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/jspui/bitstream/11703/123630/3/Barcelona%20Nature%20Plan%202030%20WEB.pdf (accessed October 2024). Further information about the relationship between this plan and other plans is on pages 68-69. Further information about who was involved and how is available on pages 83-85. The Green Model, which is described on pages 38 -40

City of Barcelona. Legal Documentation of Citizen Participatory Processes. Online resource: https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/participaciociutadana/en/legal-documentation. These are the legal documents for the rules and regulations governing citizen participation (Spanish and Catalan).

City of Barcelona. Social and Environmental Services of Barcelona's Green Spaces. Online Resource: https://hortsurbans.bcnregional.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/20200302-RE-ENG.pdf. This report details the results of a study that evaluated the social and environmental services provided by the City of Barcelona's green spaces - city parks, squares, interior block courtyards. The goal of the report is to provide a tool for the planning, management, and design of green spaces in the City.

City of Barcelona. Online resource: https://www.decidim.barcelona/processes/PlaNaturaBCN?locale=ca (accessed October 2024). This is the digital platform the City of Barcelona uses to foster participation and co-creation.

City of Barcelona. Online resources: https://bcnroc.ajuntament.barcelona.cat/jspui/bitstream/11703/126131/3/ORGANS%20OKOK_QROK.pdf;(https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/participaciociutadana/sites/default/files/documents/reglament_participacio_catala.pdf; (https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/participaciociutadana/en/legal-documentation) (accessed October 2024). City of Barcelona guidelines for using participatory processes in Spanish, Catalonian, and English

City of Barcelona. Online resource: https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/sites/default/files/PPT_DissenyExecucioRecepcio_EspaisVerds.pdf (Spanish) . This pdf describes the bill of technical prescriptions for the design and execution of green spaces that establishes the minimum criteria for green spaces

City of Barcelona. Biodiversity Atlas. Online resource: https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/atlesbiodiversitat/en/ (accessed October 2024). An interactive monitoring and reporting tool that the City publishes and keeps up to date.

City of Barcelona. Greenery and Biodiversity Charter. Online resource: https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/en/what-we-do-and-why/green-city-and-biodiversity/greenery-biodiversity-charter (accessed October 2024). The Greenery and Biodiversity Charter is a reference guide that sets out how to design cities and green spaces while taking account socio-environmental services and incorporating pro-biodiversity and pro-sustainability criteria. It is aimed at all parties involved in the design project, but more specifically it is intended as a common reference framework for project builders and the various technical areas at Barcelona City Council involved in the drafting process for projects in the city's green spaces.

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. Metropolitan Urban Master Plan. Online resource: https://urbanisme.amb.cat/home . The master plan for the urban area of the Barcelona Metropolitan area.

Urban Governance Atlas (2023). Urban Governance Atlas (UGA). INTERLACE. Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement No. 869324, European Commission. URL: https://interlace-hub.com/barcelona-nature-plan-2021-2030. This is a brief summary and analysis of the Barcelona Nature Plan.

State of Play Report - Paris

The City of Paris has fulfilled the requirements to meet all the milestones of the Urban Nature Plan framework. This section describes why and how, as well as the current status of their process of continuous improvement. The requirements to qualify as having an Urban Nature Plan are met through several key plans and initiatives, all of which are publicly available on the city's website.

The overarching strategy is the Climate Plan 2024-2030, which was adopted by the City Council at the end of 2024. Faster, more local, more equitable – these are the guiding principles that have shaped the development of the City's new Climate Plan.

Additional plans that help Paris to ensure a UNP framework is in place include:

Bioclimatic Urban Master Plan: This revised urban master plan will come into effect at the beginning of 2025 and will enforce strict rules to promote urban nature, targeting both public and private land.

Biodiversity Plan: third edition of the Biodiversity Plan (2025-2030) will be adopted in February 2025, detailing the City's activities to protect and promote urban biodiversity.

Tree Plan: a priority roadmap to strengthen and expand Paris's tree canopy, which aims to plant 170,000 new trees between 2020 and 2026 wherever possible: in streets, as urban forests, in squares, along the ring road, in woods, and more. The Plan promotes 200 various measures in favour of trees, ranging from protecting trees in regulation to raising public awareness and encouraging planting on private spaces.

Paris Rain Plan: aims at adapting urban infrastructure to better manage rainwater. It focuses on reducing flood risks, enhancing water retention, and improving climate resilience by integrating sustainable drainage systems and permeable surfaces throughout the city. Focuses on soil decompaction and rainwater harvesting.

Paris Resiliency Strategy: currently under revision and will be adopted in February 2025. The Strategy aims to enhance the city's capacity to respond to climate change, health emergencies, and social inequalities by reinforcing infrastructure, supporting vulnerable populations, and promoting sustainable practices for a more resilient urban environment.

Introduction to the City

Founded in the 3rd century BC, Paris, France has become a global epicentre of art, culture and politics. The capital city of France has over 2 million inhabitants (with a metropolitan population of over 10 million) and is one of the most densely populated urban areas in Europe.
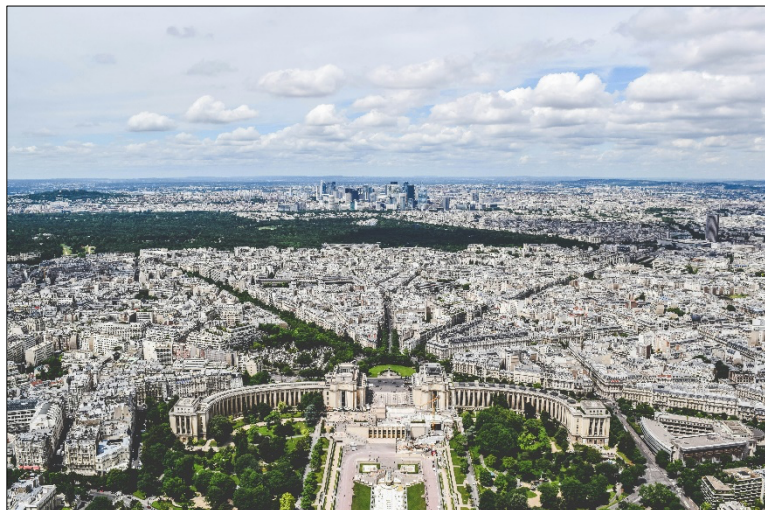
Figure 10: View of Paris from the Eifel Tower (Jace and Afsoon)

Even in this dense urban space, nature can thrive. The city boasts 531 parks and gardens, two extensive forests (Bois de Vincennes and Bois de Boulogne) and over 100,000 street trees. Paris has committed to planting an additional 170,000 trees and adding 100 hectares of public green spaces, by 2026. Despite being already fully built, Paris is actively transforming to deliver new urban green spaces, such as the city's new urban forest on the Place de Catalogne and a 3-hectare park named after Aretha Franklin in the east of Paris. Also by 2026, Paris will be home to 100 'school streets' - green, traffic-free zones dedicated to school children and community activities.
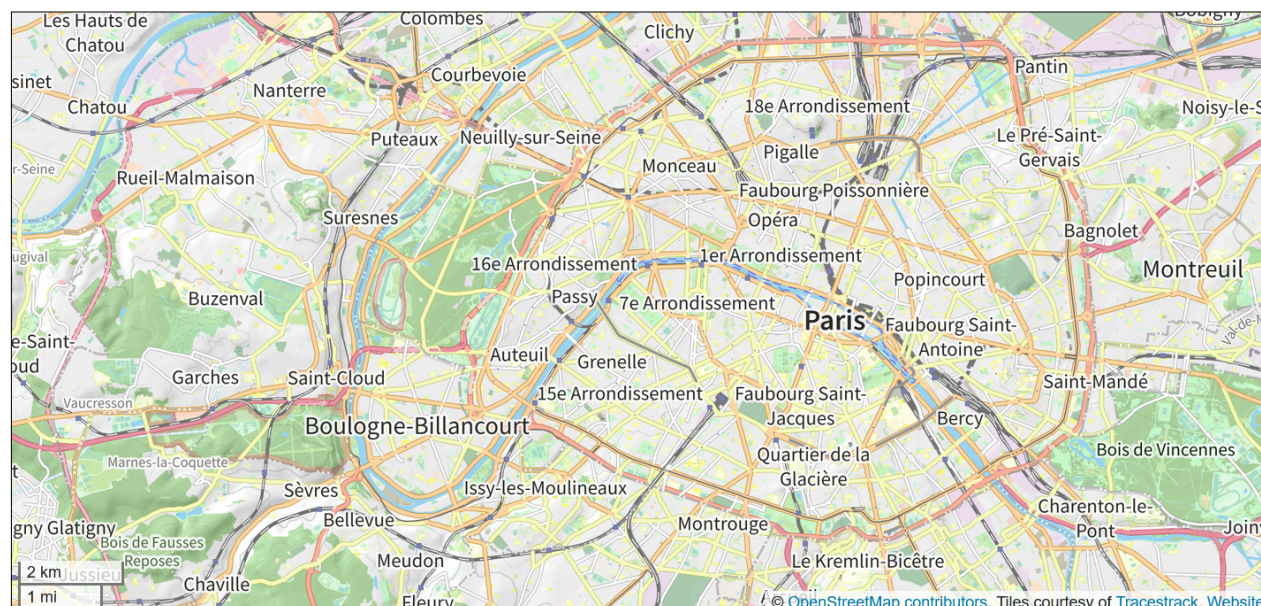
Figure 11: Map of Paris (OpenStreetMap)

On the forefront of the fight against phytosanitary products since the 1990s, Paris committed to a zero-pesticide approach well before the nationwide ban, making a significant contribution to healthy urban biodiversity. This policy, extended in 2015 to all Parisian cemeteries, has led to the return of several wild species to the city, including regular sightings of foxes in the Père

Lachaise cemetery. This initiative is part of a wider effort to improve the natural environment and quality of life for residents.

Paris faces significant challenges in its quest to integrate more green space. As an ultra-dense and fully built city, finding and creating space for nature, mobility and affordable housing requires innovative solutions. The city also needs to adapt its flora to climate change and ensure that there are enough workers and/or appropriate processes in place to green and care for the city, for example, with more space for nature may come new maintenance processes or necessitate additional staff. Communication and awareness raising to help residents see spontaneous urban flora as a positive rather than an "unkept" element of the urban environment is also a key focus.

Progress along each of the UNP Steps

This section summarises the City's responses from the self-assessment process, complemented with desk research by ICLEI and inputs from City representatives. Each section is one of the phases of the UNP framework: co-creation and preparation, action planning, and implementation and monitoring. The sections contain a brief description about how, or why not, the City has met the associated milestones of the Urban Nature Plan framework, a short dive into the place-based specifics of each section, quotes, and lessons learned.

Figure 12: UNP process

In **Co-creation and Preparation (milestone 1, steps 1-3)**, Paris demonstrates its commitment to embedding public and expert input into urban nature initiatives. The methodology is flexible, adapting to the scale and goals of each project, whether through guided citizen walks, digital consultations, or public-private charters.

Moving into **Action Planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4-8)**, Paris aligns its biodiversity vision with actionable strategies and updates on city-wide plans. Long-term goals are crafted to balance ecological, economic, and social priorities while addressing ongoing challenges like monitoring biodiversity corridors and refining indicators for progress evaluation.

Finally, through **Mainstreaming, Monitoring, and Reporting (milestone 6, steps 9-10)**, Paris underscores the importance of political mandates, interdepartmental collaboration, and robust data systems.

Figure 13: Steps 1-3 of the UNP process
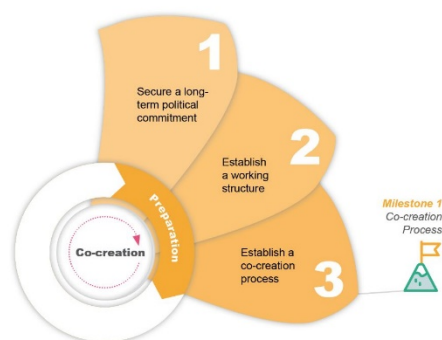
Co-creation and preparation (milestone 1, steps 1 - 3)

The City of Paris uses co-creation as appropriate depending on the intention and scope of a planning process or project. This meets the requirement for achieving Milestone 1, co-creation process of a UNP.

About co-creation and the UNP preparation phase in Paris

The City of Paris values co-creation as an important methodology, while also recognizing that there are times when urban nature-related decisions are driven by mandates or city priorities. In these cases, citizen input is incorporated through the trust placed in democratic processes and voting. Some plans and projects are created from a top-down approach, some with horizontal inputs, and others with co-creation and bottom-up engagement processes. The planning and design processes differ depending on the responsible department, meaning that co-creation varies from project to project and can occur at different stages of the process. Fundamentally, co-creation in Paris occurs at the **planning scale and the project scales.**

At the **planning scale**, the 2024-2030 Biodiversity Plan was elaborated through a co-creation process involving interdepartmental working groups (all city departments were invited to contribute), an online public consultation open to everyone living in the city, and stakeholder meetings gathering experts and NGOs with elected representatives. This collaborative approach ensured that the plan reflects a wide range of perspectives and expertise, fostering a comprehensive strategy for protecting and enhancing urban biodiversity.

At the **project scale**, the selection of co-creation methods is influenced by the results of a public consultations process ('Embellir votre quartier'), where the specific neighbourhood, street, or area for a nature or biodiversity project is chosen. Co-creation tools, methods, and processes are context-dependent and may include online public consultations, public-private agreements (such as a tree charter), and guided walks to gather citizen perspectives on what should be changed, improved, or removed in relation to urban nature and biodiversity. The level of stakeholder engagement varies based on their interest in and commitment to the project.

Lessons learned and key priorities

The City of Paris has found that after a project is implemented, co-maintenance processes can be highly effective, if stakeholders have been engaged earlier on in the design and implementation processes. It is especially the case of green 'school streets' that are designed and later on maintained with the participation of children, parents, teachers and the local community.

Action planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4 - 8)
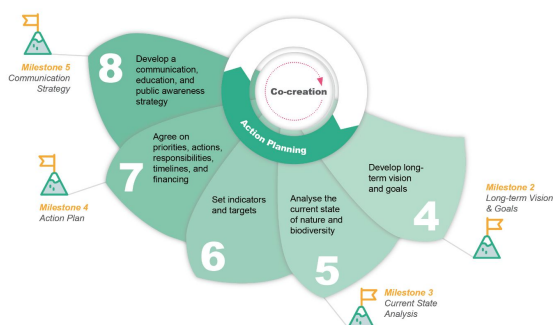
The City of Paris has a long-term vision and goals, is in the process updating and enhancing existing analyses of the current state of nature and biodiversity, is working on several related action plans simultaneously, and is implementing projects related to communication and local awareness raising. Therefore, milestones 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the UNP process have been achieved.

Figure 14: Steps 4-8 of the UNP process

Additional action plans and strategies that contribute to Paris' UNP framework include:

- Biodiversity Plan 2018-2024
- Bioclimatic Local Urban Plan
- Tree Plan 2021-2026
- Climate Plan
- Paris Rain Plan
- Resilience Strategy
- Sustainable Food Strategy

Paris long-term vision

The current biodiversity plan, 2018-2024*, states the City's vision simply, a city 'resilient and rich in biodiversity.' It further elaborates this in detail in relation to ecosystem services, economic development, community engagement, and the importance and value of nature. The current plan is structured around three long term axes:

1. A city committed to biodiversity: the city sets an example and being a leader
2. Biodiversity for everyone: everyone takes care of and understands the importance of biodiversity
3. Biodiversity everywhere: the city as an asset for and proponent of biodiversity

This plan will be replaced by the Biodiversity Plan, anticipated in February 2025.

Lessons learned and ongoing processes

Two relevant ongoing processes in the City of Paris have to do with 1) collaboration across technical and political scales and 2) biodiversity indicators and indexes. The biodiversity strategy was designed in alignment with all other City plans. However, ensuring that all city plans are coherent and synergised in order to maximise co-benefits is an ongoing process and challenge that requires significant attention and is never fully complete. The City recognises the importance of coordination between the municipality, neighbouring cities and the regional authority. This coordination is necessary for data collection for index calculations and for managing and promoting biodiversity corridors, which the City recognises have significant importance for biodiversity. Ensuring the greatest impact involves ongoing collaboration between city and regional authorities on both technical and political fronts. Clear methods and a timeline for reviewing the alignment of multiple plans is a good starting point for collaboration.

Regarding indicator identification and index calculation, Paris has calculated the Singapore index and conducts regular inventories for flora and fauna to feed a Nature Atlas. However, despite these efforts, the City has struggled to identify appropriate and comprehensive biodiversity indicators and indices that are fit for purpose. While the Singapore index is thorough, it is built around three main categories of targets - native/regional biodiversity, ecosystem services, and community engagement/governance/management. Due to its structure, it may be possible to score highly on the index with relatively little direct impact on biodiversity, if there is a lot of investment in policy and communication. However, units of other indices are often complex and therefore not easy to work with or to translate into a useful public communication tool or measure of progress. The City is continuing to evaluate indices and indicators and to explore what fits best for Paris.

Paris' baseline assessments, action plan, and communication strategy

Four cornerstone city plans are currently being updated. The Climate Plan will come into force at the end 2024. The new Bioclimatic Urban Masterplan will be submitted to the Paris Council for approval at the end of 2024 and is expected to come into force at the beginning of 2025. The Parisian Resilience Strategy was also revised in 2024 and includes targets on urban nature to foster climate and health resilience. The Biodiversity Plan 2025-2030 will be voted on by the City Council in February 2025. In each of the plans there are baseline assessments, action plans and communication strategies. There are also responsible stakeholders identified for the plans' implementation.
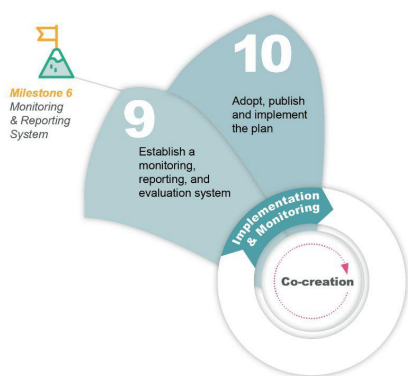
Figure 15: Steps 9-10 of the UNP process

Mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting (milestone 6, steps 9 and 10)

There is currently a strong political mandate to protect and foster biodiversity in the City. This provides a lot of interdepartmental support and willingness to collaborate. It also supports training for city officials and employees.

This upskilling of city officials and employees is critically important in order to be able to deliver on the plans and show impact from the political mandate. There is both political and civic pressure to show impact from the political mandates and plans. Therefore, monitoring and reporting is critical. However, it is also difficult, because the data in the city is not fully centralised and nature and biodiversity is being addressed and worked on across departments.

Areas of focus for the UNP+ project

The City of Paris identified several topics and questions they would be willing to engage in as part of the UNP+ project (see list below and Where do we go from here? Section) Future engagement on the topics could happen through participation in Urban Nature Exchanges, one-on-one conversations with other cities, participation in knowledge and reflection labs, and/or engagement in outreach and communication activities.

- Financial models, knowledge, and skills for long-term maintenance of urban nature

- The importance of collaboration on the technical and political levels both locally and regionally

- Reinforcing the co-creation and engagement process, especially with vulnerable communities

- Cross-sectoral integration of justice and equity principles in planning and implementation

- Communications, education, and awareness raising

Summary

Paris exemplifies a strong commitment to urban biodiversity through its myriad plans and strategies, innovative co-creation processes, and strong political mandate. By addressing ongoing challenges such as interdepartmental coordination, biodiversity monitoring, and long-term financing, Paris is well-positioned to further advance its Urban Nature Plan while offering expertise and opportunities to collaborate with other UNP+ cities.

Sources

City of Paris. City website. Online resources: https://www.paris.fr/pages/biodiversite-66. This online platform is a way for citizens and city employees to stay up to date with what is

happening in the City of Paris and what type of programmes and initiatives exist related to nature and biodiversity. Online resources related to specific urban greening activities include:

- Nature and green space (https://www.paris.fr/nature-et-espaces-verts)
- Biodiversity (https://www.paris.fr/pages/biodiversite-66)
- Gardens and parks (https://www.paris.fr/pages/espaces-verts-139)
- Agriculture and sustainable food (https://www.paris.fr/agriculture-et-alimentation-durables) (accessed October 2024).

These resources all contribute to building awareness of the work Paris has been involved in throughout the greening process.

City of Paris. Biodiversity Plan 2018-2024. Online Resource: https://cdn.paris.fr/paris/2021/02/17/fbb551749cd3dabdf2b730d5f4097629.pdf (accessed October 2024). This plan describes the vision, objectives and action plan for biodiversity in the City of Paris. Page 15 describes how the plan is organised and the long-term priorities of the City of Paris. The plan is scheduled to be updated in early 2025.

City of Paris. Online Resources regarding specific urban biodiversity and resilience plans include:

- Bioclimatic Local Urban Plan (Projet de PLU Bioclimatique - Accueil),
- Tree Plan 2021-2026 (daf6cce214190a66c7919b34989cf1ed.pdf),
- Climate Plan (0695318b97ca7fde65710d4c9d55054b.pdf),
- Paris Rain Plan (843a7be4c5c6c532a4eaab07a15724da.pdf)
- Resilience Strategy (https://cdn.paris.fr/paris/2019/07/24/ebc807dec56112639d506469b3b67421.pdf)
- Sustainable Food Strategy: (2018/9/Stratégie_Paris_Aliment_Durable_Version Web.pdf).

These plans all contribute in part to Paris' meeting the requirement of an Urban Nature Plan.

City of Paris. Paris Demain 2023: Sustainable Development Annual Report 2023. Online resource: sustainable_development_annual_report_2023-kMOv.pdf. (accessed October 2024). This report, published before the Olympic and Paralympic games, details the city's greening and sustainability efforts in the face of climate change.

City of Paris. Online resources.

- Paris nature trails map (Cartographie des chemins de la nature par arrondissement BD.pdf)
- Atlas de la nature, understanding and protecting better the Parisian biodiversity (https://cdn.paris.fr/paris/2021/03/18/4f1e5114ac8f92145919b73da9091c30.pdf),
- The Paris Landscapes Atlas (https://www.paysages-paris.fr/).

These publicly available online resources detail the current state of nature and biodiversity in Paris.

State of Play Report - Belgrade

The City of Belgrade has made significant progress towards having an Urban Nature Plan. As part of the self-assessment process, they indicated that they have achieved milestone 1, co-creation and have a co-creation process in place to develop their plans and strategies. However, the City has also indicated that there is no mandate from the city to use a co-creative process and that therefore, co-creation is not always used, therefore they would like to continue to work on embedding co-creation into the city's process. The City of Belgrade will work towards achieving milestone 3 (current state analysis), and milestone 5 (communications strategy), and improving milestone 2 (long term vision), and milestone 4 (action plan), as well as refining and enhancing and mainstreaming their co-creation work. This State of Play report describes in more detail the status and progress made along each of the Urban Nature Plan process steps towards achieving key milestones. Table 5 provides a visual overview of Belgrade's process towards continuous improvement.

Table 5: UNP milestones and steps where Belgrade sees themselves excelling (green), ready to improve on (blue), or needs support to take the next step (orange)

Steps and Milestones	Belgrade
establish a co-creation process/working structure (milestone 1; steps 2 & 3)	🔵
long-term vision and goals (milestone 2, step 4)	🔵
establish a current state analysis (milestone 3, step 5)	🟠
develop an action plan (milestone 4, steps 6 & 7)	🔵
establishing indicators and targets (step 6)	
create a communication plan/external comms (milestone 5, step 8)	🟠
monitoring and reporting system (milestone 6, step 9)	
Staff training and capacity building	🟠

Introduction to the City

Figure 16: Belgrade (Anton Lukin)

Belgrade is the capital and largest city in Serbia. Located at the nexus of the Danube and Sava rivers, Belgrade's metropolitan area is home to over 1.6 million people who enjoy many natural systems in the area. To the north, the Pannonian depression is covered with wheat and corn, and Šumadija, with orchards and vineyards, lies to the south. Approximately 16% of Belgrade's territory is covered by forests and 15% by green spaces, which contribute to the ecological diversity and urban resilience of the area.
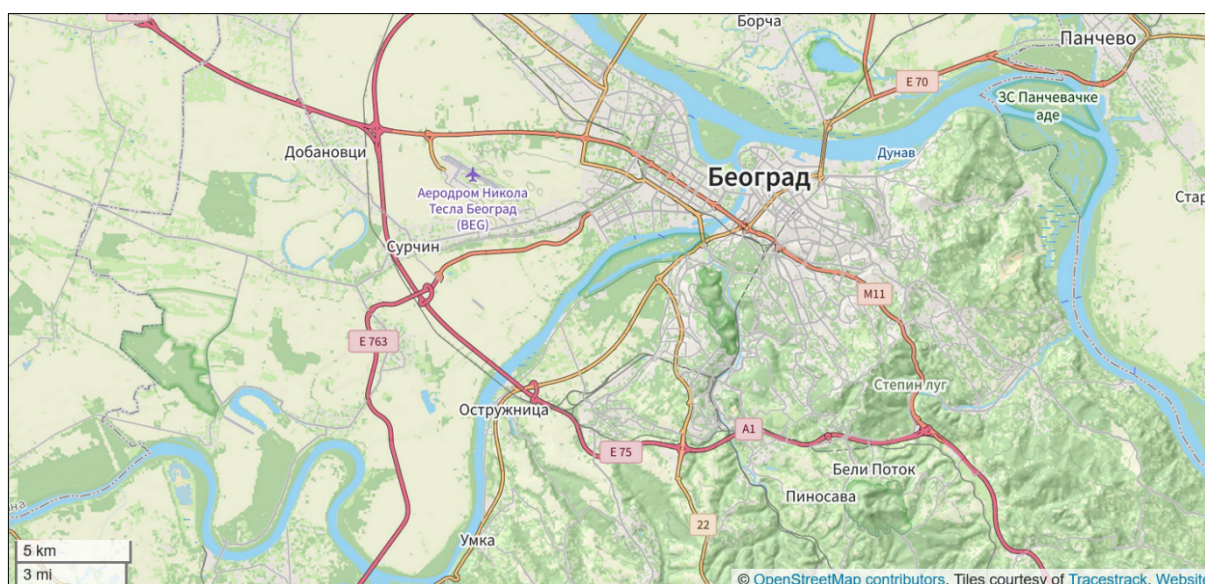
Figure 17: Map of Belgrade (OpenStreetMaps)

Despite these natural assets, the city faces challenges such as the lack of a robust legal framework for re-naturing infrastructure, insufficient implementation of planning regulations, and the need for stricter enforcement and inspection of green initiatives.

Progress along each of the UNP Steps

This section summarises the City's responses from the self-assessment process, complemented with desk research by ICLEI and inputs from City representatives. Each section is one of the phases of the UNP framework: co-creation and preparation, action planning, and implementation and monitoring. The sections contain a brief description about how, or why not, the City has met the associated milestones of the UNP framework, a short dive into the

place-based specifics of each section, quotes, and lessons learned. A summary of milestones met is illustrated in Table 5.

This section further outlines the City of Belgrade's efforts related to urban greening and biodiversity. It reviews the city's work in context of the UNP framework - milestones achieved, progress along each step, and what areas the City would like to focus on in the UNP+ project.

Co-creation and preparation (milestone 1, steps 1-3)

The Serbian Law on Nature Protection Articles 42 and 110 of the Serbian Law on Nature Protection state that, 'when performing assessments, conservation and monitoring, the institute doing the work must **inform and cooperate with the users of natural resources, as well as private landowners and those holding the property rights**.' However, the city has only more recently engaged with co-creation via participation in Horizon projects in the past several
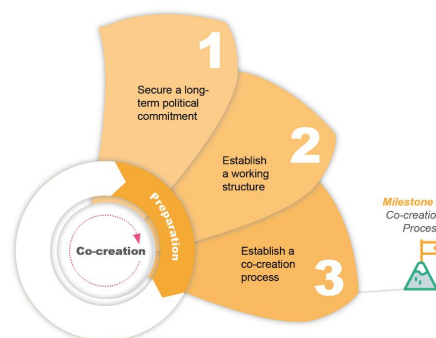
Figure 18: Steps 1-3 of the UNP process

years (e.g. CLEVER Cities, ended in 2023, and EuPOLIS ending in Aug. 2025). They have found that citizens, businesses, institutions and NGOs are eager to engage and generally satisfied with the process, yet not all civic departments have started to utilise the co-creation process.

When developing public policy documents, spatial and urban plans and major projects, the City provides opportunities for people to participate in official public consultation process, write comments and suggestions to city departments and discuss at the public hearing events. According to the Law on Planning System 2018, when developing public policy documents, departments of the City Administration are obliged to establish a working group (WG) of relevant institutions from various sectors (mostly public and civic sectors) WG members participate in organized workshops and focus groups. When facilitating co-creation processes, the City sometimes offers food to WG members, and hosts the activities in accessible spaces. In specific cases, e.g. in the Linear Park co-creation process within the CLEVER Cities project, additional workshops and focus groups for the wider public were organised close to location of the future park and with support from external, independent facilitators from the civic sector. To the City, this indicates that if Belgrade cultivated the political and financial will to create an urban nature plan, co-creation with citizens could be attainable.

However, cooperation and communication between government departments (called Secretariats) continues to have room for improvement. During the self-assessment process, the City shared that co-creation is not mainstreamed and therefore it is difficult to engage with some stakeholder groups. In Belgrade, it can be easier to work with NGOs and citizens than state institutions or other governmental departments because there is not an established culture of collaboration or openness to change processes.

Most recently, the City of Belgrade invited the general public to participate in the process of drafting the new General Urban Plan of Belgrade 2041 (GUP 2041). GUP 2041 is a long-term strategic plan for the development of Belgrade, which will provide a framework for sustainability-related development in the next 20 years. Belgrade sent out a survey in 2021, 'Toward Belgrade 2041' to gather feedback from the general public regarding social needs and strengths for 'realistic and innovative creation of a path to the future City' for all Belgraders. 2,298 citizens, or about 0.6% of the population, responded to the survey. Results from the first survey are publicly available online here, and the City has initiated a second survey to solicit public opinion regarding quality of life and on the additions made to the GUP 2041 Plan. Early Public Consultation was organised in June 2022, and the Draft General Urban Plan (DGIS) was presented to the public in November 2024.

The City is already taking steps to bridge departments and encourage more co-creation. The City reports that the DGIS proposes a new organizational unit within the Secretariat of Environmental Protection to deal with all aspects of the preservation and development of green infrastructure. A new unit should be established in 2025 and will be responsible for the implementation of the Strategy, cooperation with other relevant institutions, new initiatives, applying and implementing projects through various funds and partnerships. Moreover, the Action Plan of the DGIS proposed integration of green infrastructure topics in the realm of work of several other institutions: the Secretariat for Education and Children's Welfare, the Secretariat for Utilities and Housing Services, the Secretariat for Urban Planning and Construction, the Secretariat for Inspection, Supervision and Communication, etc. Finally, the Action Plan envisaged that in 2026 a delegated green infrastructure expert needs to be engaged in the team of the Department of Main Urban Planner, as well as in the Urban Planning Committee.
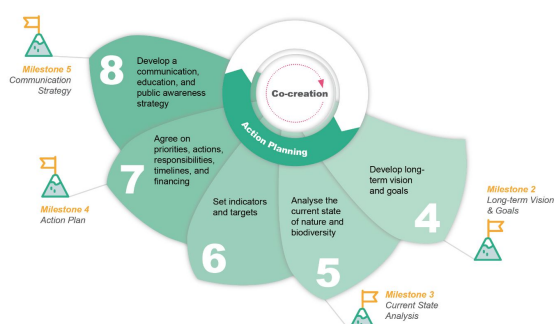
Figure 19: Steps 4-8 of the UNP process

Action planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4 – 8)

The Serbian Law on Nature Protection and the Law on planning system of the Republic of Serbia set the groundwork for nature and planning. Within the City, there are 20 secretariats (e.g. Secretariat for Public Transport), and each secretariat has a strategy which may or may not include biodiversity and nature. The strategies operate in secretariat silos with little or no coordination for implementation. However, all existing reports are available to the general public via the city's website.

Belgrade's Key Plans and Strategies that directly address nature, biodiversity, and green and blue infrastructure:

- Green City Action Plan for City of Belgrade (GCAP) was adopted in 2019, this plan delineates all green spaces for urban forests, parks, squares and tree-lined areas, and ensures future greening opportunities.

- Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment (2015). This plan identifies baseline assessments associated with climate risk and priority areas, which includes green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity.

- A Green Infrastructure Strategy is under development (finalised, but awaiting adoption by City Council). The strategy covers the time period from 2025 to 2032 and is a sectoral strategy for the territory of the city of Belgrade (administrative territorial unit of the city of Belgrade) and is a public policy document in the field of green infrastructure. At the time of writing, it is under going a public consultation process (until November 25, 2024), and expected for adoption by the end of 2024.

- Urban Forest Development Programme (2025-2035) intends to enrich the natural landscape and improve environmental quality it includes an annex for biodiversity development in urban forests.

Additional plans and regulation that impact nature and biodiversity in Belgrade:

- Regional Spatial Plan of the Administrative Area of Belgrade (2015)
- Plan of General Regulation of the System of Green Areas in Belgrade (2019)
- City of Belgrade Development Strategy
- Afforestation Strategy of the Belgrade Area
- the new Concept General Urban Plan of Belgrade 2041 (2022).

Each strategy is analysed for legal compliance regarding environmental regulations and sustainability at the local, regional, and national level, such as with the national plans and strategies as follows:

- National Sustainable Development Strategy
- National Environmental Protection Program
- Forestry Development Strategy for the Republic of Serbia
- Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia.

Long-term Vision and Goals (step 4)

The vision in the City's GCAP states, "[w]e are a capital city which is developing smartly for its citizens, especially children, and pursuing the ideals of an even greener, healthier, and more sustainable future." The plan further elaborates one of the seven core priority areas as 'green space and biodiversity.' This is one of the priority environmental challenges, because "there was a strong aspiration from stakeholders to improve green infrastructure in the city for the benefit of citizens, biodiversity and other natural services such as drainage control."

The Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy, expected to be adopted by the end of 2024 or early 2025, complemented this vision: "[g]reen infrastructure is strategically and integrally planned, creatively designed and maintained network of natural and semi-natural spaces which provide ecosystem services and form a resilient ecosystem. Green infrastructure is a priority and effective tool for improving quality of life of residents and their environment, for adapting to climate change, enhancing the integrity of the city's image and preserving biodiversity. Green infrastructure is an element of the nature of Belgrade." The Draft Strategy, also determines the five specific objectives:

1. Establish regulatory and institutional framework for green infrastructure of the City of Belgrade;

2. Green infrastructure principles integrated into the process of planning and designing of landscape characters;

3. Implemented wide, interconnected and accessible green infrastructure;

4. Improved capacities for sustainable and appealing green infrastructure;

5. Achieved high level of understanding of importance of green infrastructure are natural, cultural, social and environmental value of Belgrade

While there is a vision and objectives that include nature and city greening, during the self-assessment the City of Belgrade indicated significant room for improvement and to align them to the 'current state of biodiversity and nature' in a more concrete and tangible manner.

Current state of nature and biodiversity (step 5)

The City of Belgrade lacks comprehensive, regularly up-dated data on global biodiversity indicators on protected as well as non -protected areas. However, some work on understanding the current state of nature and biodiversity has been done. For instance, the Institute for Natural Protection Serbia conducts annual studies on biodiversity in protected areas. Additionally, the city is in the process of developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy, which is expected to include measures related to spatial and urban planning. This strategy, currently under development and set for publication in late 2024 or early 2025, will build on the General Regulation Plan for the System of Green Spaces from 2019. This plan serves as an umbrella document, outlining areas that should remain undeveloped and identifying green spaces for permanent protection. Furthermore, the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Belgrade developed the Atlas of Landscape Character Types of Belgrade in 2020, in collaboration with the Secretariat for Environmental Protection.

Despite these efforts, the City of Belgrade does not yet have local documentation or strategies beyond protected areas, such as Natura 2000, focused on biodiversity. Existing documentation and greening strategies primarily address protected areas. While biodiversity and nature planning are recognized as important, the development of a comprehensive biodiversity or nature plan for the entire city is still in the conceptual stage, with no proposed budget.

Indicators and targets (step 6)

The City of Belgrade has developed an Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and a Strategy for Forestry, but neither of these documents includes specific indicators for biodiversity monitoring. The city does have a Green Areas GIS database, though it is not regularly updated. Moreover, Belgrade lacks comprehensive, up-to-date data on green and blue spaces in and around the city that are not designated as protected areas.

Figure 20: Steps 9-10 of the UNP process

Mainstreaming, monitoring, and reporting (milestone 6, steps 9 and 10)

There is no legislation or city-wide institutional mandate that gives preference to urban nature or green infrastructure. However, the City of Belgrade has taken steps to mainstream urban nature and nature-based solutions into action plans. Several city departments have strategies related to nature and are providing input into the forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy (for example: the Secretariat for Urban Planning and Construction, the Secretariat for Environmental Protection, the Secretariat for Utilities and Housing Services, the Secretariat for Transport, and the Secretariat for Public Transport).

One area that the City identified with room for improvement related to understanding and mainstreaming nature is policy enforcement. Although local guidelines require new construction to maintain 25% of greenery in some urban zones, and minimum 10% in the city centre for commercial or mixed land-uses, investors often disregard or delay compliance as inspection and monitoring is a long and often slow process.

Areas of focus for the UNP+ project

Belgrade joined the UNP+ project to strengthen its green plans and biodiversity initiatives. The city aims to raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity while improving and expanding its natural spaces. As part of the UNP+ project, the City of Belgrade will work on the elements of an Urban Nature Plan that will be initiated by the adoption of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Specifically related to the first, second, and 4th core objectives outlined in the draft of the Strategy (see section 'Long-term Vision and Goals (step 4)'). The five goals of the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy are as follows:

1. Establish regulatory and institutional framework for green infrastructure of the City of Belgrade

2. Integrate green infrastructure principles into the process of planning and designing of landscape characters

3. Work towards implementing wide, interconnected and accessible green infrastructure

4. Improve capacities for sustainable and appealing green infrastructure

5. Encourage a high level of understanding of importance of green infrastructure for natural, cultural, social and aesthetic value for Belgrade.

The City of Belgrade will work towards achieving milestone 3 (current state analysis), and milestone 5 (communications strategy), and updating milestone 2 (long term vision), and milestone 4 (action plan), as well as refining and enhancing and mainstreaming their co-creation work. They will do this by bringing different departments together for setting baselines and developing objectives, integrating nature and biodiversity into a clear vision with goals. In addition, Belgrade aims to tackle the lack of a strong participatory culture fostering the establishment of continuous inclusive participation processes, building on the relationships established as part of the upcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy, that can foster more just and inclusive processes and results. They will work on improving their current state assessments of nature and setting targets and indicators for monitoring.

Summary

The City of Belgrade is making progress toward integrating nature-based solutions and enhancing urban biodiversity through its participation in the UNP+ project. With a clear focus on refining its co-creation processes, improving collaboration across departments, and advancing milestones such as current state analysis, action planning, and communications strategies, Belgrade is laying the groundwork for their Urban Nature Plan. By leveraging the upcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy and focusing on inclusive participation, the city aims to align its long-term vision with actionable goals and measurable outcomes, ensuring that nature remains a central pillar of sustainable urban development.

Sources

EBRD. Green City Action Plan. Online resource: https://ebrdgreencities.com/assets/Uploads/PDF/Belgrade-GCAP.pdf (accessed October 2024). This resource is the English version of Belgrade's Green City Action Plan, which is a strategic document which diagnoses, prioritises and detects the environmental challenges of the city, presents a "Green City" vision for 2030 and provides a financially sustainable plan to meet our ambition of winning the Green City Capital Award in the near future. This plan establishes a roadmap for maximising economic, environmental, and social co-benefits.

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National Government of Serbia. Law on Nature Protection. Online resource: https://www.pregovarackagrupa27.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/LAW-ON-NATURE-PROTECTION-2016.pdf. This website translates the 2016 Serbian Law on Nature Protection into English.

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National Government of Serbia. 2022 Serbian Census First results. Online resource: https://www.stat.gov.rs/en-us/vesti/statisticalrelease/?p=14061&a=31&s=3104 archived from the original on 21 December 2022 (accessed June 2024). This website contains statistical demographic data about Serbia and the City of Belgrade.

State of Play Report - Burgas

The City of Burgas has made significant progress towards establishing an Urban Nature Plan. Co-creation is embedded in various stages of the planning process, especially in projects that directly impact residents, such as park projects, public space development and urban greening initiatives. This meets the requirement for achieving Milestone 1, co-creation process of a UNP. Additionally, the City of Burgas has made significant steps in identifying a vision and long-term goals for the city, and conducting a thorough current state analysis, baselines assessments, and turning it all into an action plan with specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound (SMART) goals. However, the City self-identified that there is room for improvement when it comes to including urban nature and biodiversity into goal setting. Furthermore, there is no dedicated communication strategy for urban nature, therefore milestones 2 (long term vision), 3 (current state analysis), 4 (action plan), and 5 (communications strategy) have not yet been achieved.

Figure 21: City of Burgas (Georgi Hristov)

The City of Burgas has a monitoring and reporting system in place for protected habitat areas in locations that they have jurisdiction over and receive updated reports for protected areas they are responsible for. Although the City self-reported that there is significant room for improvement, the basic structure is in place. Therefore, Milestone 6, a monitoring and reporting system has been achieved. This State of Play report describes in more detail the status and progress made along each of the Urban Nature Plan process steps towards achieving key milestones. Table 6 provides a visual overview of Burgas' process for continuous improvement.

Table 6: UNP milestones and steps where Burgas sees themselves excelling (green), ready to improve on (blue), or needs support to take the next step (orange)

UNP Steps and Milestones	Burgas
establish a co-creation process/working structure (milestone 1; steps 2 & 3)	(blue)
long-term vision and goals (milestone 2, step 4)	(orange)
establish a current state analysis (milestone 3, step 5)	(orange)
develop an action plan (milestone 4, steps 6 & 7)	(orange)
establishing indicators and targets (step 6)	
create a communication plan/external comms (milestone 5, step 8)	(orange)
monitoring and reporting system (milestone 6, step 9)	(orange)
Staff training and capacity building	(orange)

Introduction to the City

Burgas, with a population of 229, 740 is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, and is located on the Black Sea Coast at the eastern border of the European Union. The city is surrounded by water: to the east lies the Black Sea, while the North, West, and South are bordered by three seaside lakes—Burgas, Atanasovsko, and Mandrensko. These natural water bodies contribute significantly to the city's ecological landscape, providing a habitat for diverse species and supporting rich biodiversity.

Urban nature is a constant in Burgas. The city's sandy beaches provide recreational spaces that are enjoyed by both locals and tourists, blending well with the urban environment. The area is also a crucial stopover along the migratory routes of various bird species, earning it

the moniker of an "air highway" for migrating birds. Additionally, the nearby Strandzha Natural Park and the Burgas Mineral Springs add to the city's natural attractions.

Approximately 20% of the municipality's land area is protected due to its impressive biodiversity and serves as a sanctuary for endangered species of migrating birds, fish, and mammals. This commitment to preserving natural habitats underscores Burgas' dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable urban development.
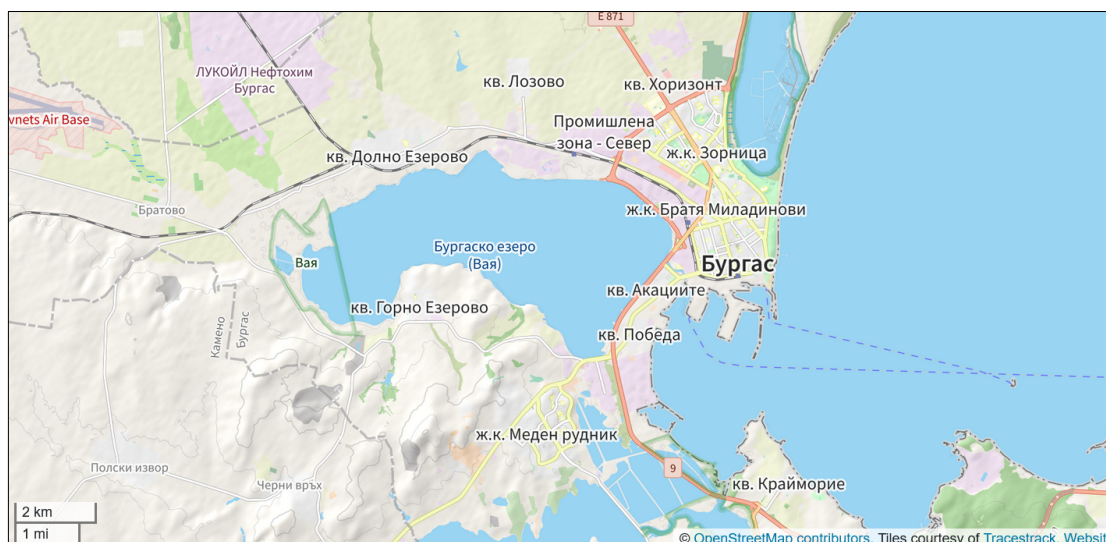
Figure 22: Map of Burgas (OpenStreetMap)

Burgas is a signatory to the Green City Accord, reflecting its commitment to protecting the natural environment and achieving ambitious goals by 2030. As part of this accord, city leaders in Burgas have pledged to take further action in five critical areas: air, water, nature and biodiversity, waste and circular economy, and noise reduction.

Progress along each of the UNP Steps

This section summarises the City of Burgas' responses from the self-assessment process, complemented with desk research by ICLEI and inputs from City representatives. Each section is one of the phases of the UNP framework: co-creation and preparation, action planning, and implementation and monitoring. The sections contain a brief description about how, or why not, the City has met the associated milestones of the UNP framework, a short dive into the place-based specifics of each section. A summary of milestones met is illustrated in Table 6.

This section further outlines the City of Burgas' efforts related to urban greening and biodiversity. It reviews the city's work in context of the UNP framework - milestones achieved, progress along each step, and what areas the City would like to focus on in the UNP+ project.

Co-creation and preparation (milestone 1, steps 1-3)

The City of Burgas' cornerstone plan is the Plan for Integrated Development, sometimes called Integrated Development plan for the City of Burgas or PIRO, it covers the time period from 2021-2027. The City of Burgas shows its commitment to engaging with residents and the larger community to ensure that urban development meets their needs via the creation and of plans and strategies such as the Program for Improving Air Quality in the Municipality of Burgas (2021-2027), the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, and the Action Plan for the Strategic Noise Map of the Environmental Noise.

Figure 23: Steps 1-3 of the UNP process

The City of Burgas will continue to use and improve their co-creation process to engage residents in developing their Urban Nature Plan. Key methods include public meetings and workshops, digital tools like the city website, online surveys, and social media platforms (Facebook, TikTok, Instagram), as well as opportunities for residents to share feedback directly with the mayor during designated consultation hours. Online tools have proven essential for reaching a broad and diverse audience.

This approach emphasizes continuous feedback and iterative processes to ensure projects align with community needs. For instance, during the renovation of Primorski Park, multiple public meetings allowed residents to suggest features such as playgrounds and picnic areas, which were incorporated into the final design. By combining digital engagement, face-to-face discussions, and transparent consultation, the city effectively gathers input and adapts its plans to reflect residents' priorities.

While the milestone for co-creation has been met, a part of having a UNP in place is identifying areas for continuous improvement and learning. The City of Burgas recognises that it is challenging for them to effectively reach and include residents on a regular basis, especially minority populations and people with varied educational backgrounds. Also, the city expressed the need to strengthen its communication strategies to be better able to promote and convey the potential benefits of a UNP to the different groups, especially the most vulnerable ones.

Figure 24: Steps 4-8 of the UNP process

Action planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4 - 8)

The City of Burgas has two overarching plans and one core strategy (see Table 7). The Integrated Development plan for the City of Burgas, sometimes called Plan for Integrated Development (PIRO) is the most comprehensive and integrates priorities from multiple sectors into one plan (note: the Municipal plan for Development was the precursor to the PIRO). The more sectoral Urban Mobility Management Plan focuses on pathways for transportation - both pedestrian, public, and private, with long-term implications for greenery; and the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism in Burgas also outlines visions, goals, and priority actions related to nature and urban greenery.

Table 7: List of strategic documents and projects of Burgas Municipality (City of Burgas)

Strategic Planning Documents
Municipal Plan for Development of Burgas Municipality 2021-2027
Urban Mobility Management Plan 2021-2031
Strategy for Sustainable development of tourism in Burgas Municipality, 2022-2039
Integrated Development Plan for the City of Burgas in the period 2021-2027

Burgas' Action Plans and Strategies contributing to the UNP Framework

- The **Integrated Development plan for the City of Burgas,** sometimes called Plan for Integrated Development (**PIRO**) is the most comprehensive and integrates priorities from multiple sectors into one plan.
- The **Urban Mobility Management Plan** focuses on pathways for transportation - both pedestrian, public, and private, with long-term implications for greenery
- **Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism in Burgas** also outlines visions, goals, and priority actions related to nature and urban greenery

Why is PIRO important for the Municipality of Burgas?

The plan covers the entire territory of the municipality, defining areas for the implementation of an integrated approach to meet identified needs, to support development potentials and opportunities for cooperation with neighboring municipalities. Piro provides spatial, temporal and factual coordination and integration of different policies and planning resources to achieve the defined goals for lasting improvement of the economic, social and environmental status on the territory of the Municipality of Burgas.

Source: City of Burgas

Why is PIRO important for the people of Burgas?

PIRO as part of the strategic document system integrates regional and spatial development and serves to determine the current problems, needs and potentials for development of the region, municipality and settlements, which are reported in the development of investment programs and financial instruments, including co-financed by the European Union funds. In the process of development, the active participation of every interested citizen is essential. Everyone can join in setting local initiatives that contribute to the achievement of national and regional and local development priorities.

Source: City of Burgas

Long-term vision and goals and priority actions (steps 4 and 7)

The PIRO covers the time-period from 2021-2027. This seven-year planning horizon is determined by the dependency on European funds to design and implement the plan. The funding programs that Burgas is a part of include Operational Programme 'Regions in Growth' (OPRG), Operational Programme 'Transport and Transport Infrastructure' (OPTITI), 'Operational Programme Environment' (OPE), and' European Regional Development Fund' (ERDF).

The current PIRO has 4 strategic objectives:

1. Accelerating the socio-economic development of the municipality through a complex integrated impact, interventions on the economic ecosystem of the municipality;

2. Sustainable improvement of the quality of life of the local community and mitigation of intra-municipal imbalances in access to critical public services (incl. Health and education);

3. Improving regional integration, physical and digital connectivity between places and spaces in the municipality and the region;

4. Sustainable use of the natural-resource potential of the municipality and adaptation of its territory to the challenges of climate change.

While the objectives have implications for urban nature and biodiversity, the language is not explicitly about them. Objective number 2 points to addressing unequal access to nature and green space. Objective number 3 is about connecting the city to the region physically, which is important both for transportation but also implicitly for biodiversity corridors. And objective number 4 is about sustainable use of natural resources, which implies the stewardship and enhancement of nature, but does not state it. The PIRO contains an action plan to meet these objectives with projects in fourteen categories, nature and urban greening falls within the categories of 'Green and Digital' and 'My City, My Neighbourhood, My Street.' The fourteen categories of projects are:

1. Tourism
2. **My city, my neighbourhood, my street**
3. **Green and digital**
4. Energy efficiency
5. Health and care
6. Education
7. Culture
8. Urban environment
9. Education
10. culture
11. Technical infrastructure
12. Sport
13. Urban mobility
14. Circular economy

According to the PIRO and the EU Programmes Burgas participates in (see above), the main priorities for the development of Burgas until 2027 include healthcare, economic development focused on the entire socio-economic ecosystem of the municipality, and education. During the OPE programming period, emphasis is placed on the preparation and implementation of projects to ensure accessible and modern healthcare for the population of the municipality and the region, improving the quality of the urban environment, and developing sustainable mobility. Investments are also planned in innovative and high-quality education, leveraging

strategic potentials to build a unique urban identity, and establishing Burgas as an experience. Investments are foreseen in sports and social infrastructure, the implementation of green and digital solutions, and the sustainable management of natural and urbanized ecosystems to preserve and enhance the region's natural capital.

Current state of nature and biodiversity (step 5)

Data management, collection, and inventories is not centralised. It is a shared responsibility across multiple departments, namely, the **Ecology Department** is responsible for collecting and managing data related to the ecological aspects of green infrastructure. The **Construction Department** handles data and information related to infrastructure projects and construction activities that include green and blue components. And the **European Projects and Programs Department** manages projects and programs funded by European sources, which may include initiatives for the development of green and blue infrastructure.

Over the past few years, the city has implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS) process to collect information and data and spatially represent it. A Municipal Company manages a GIS system, which coordinates and maintains the technical aspects of the system. The GIS process partially covers green infrastructure by looking at land-use. However, comprehensive data on green and blue infrastructure does not yet exist. Detailed records related to biodiversity, plant and animal species, as well as information on water quality is lacking. There is potential to further develop this system.

Additionally, the City collects and spatially maps data (with GIS) on building density and floor area ratio (FAR), public spaces and amenities (e.g., parks, recreational areas, cultural facilities), environmental impact data (e.g., air quality, green cover, water bodies), flood risk zones and environmental hazard, and land ownership and property registration. However, more detailed and comprehensive data is needed. The City is limited both because of personnel and skillsets. More specialists are needed to ensure high-quality data entry and system maintenance. Another barrier to complete datasets is the challenge of working with the private sector and private landowners to get the most detailed and up to date data from the most locations.

Indicators and targets (step 6)

The city lacks comprehensive and up-to-date data on green and blue spaces in and around the City, beyond the Natura2000 designation. The city does not have sufficient indicators to reflect the effectiveness of green and blue initiatives in social, economic, or ecological contexts. They have no metrics for tracking the social impact of green spaces and their role in the sustainable development of the city.

Figure 25: Steps 9-10 of the UNP process

The City of Burgas has legislation which prioritises urban initiatives, but the topic of urban nature and biodiversity is not mainstreamed across departments. The city also organises periodic events related to Earth Day and aligns these activities with the implementation of different projects. Additionally, Burgas runs programs, activities and initiatives to raise awareness and engage different stakeholder groups with a focus on urban nature and environmental issues. For example, the city hosts public clean-up campaigns in key natural areas of the city, encouraging residents to actively participate in preserving local green spaces, and they hold educational seminars for schools to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and sustainable practices in urban settings. These efforts help foster a sense of community responsibility toward the environment as well as cultivate citizens' connection to nature.

The Municipality of Burgas actively monitors the species, quantity, and size of plants within its jurisdiction. However, the diversity of fish, animals, and birds is not currently monitored. Within the territory of Burgas, there are several protected areas that are under the strict control and monitoring of the Ministry of Environment and Water. The city receives comprehensive reports from the ministry on a yearly basis, ensuring that these areas are managed and preserved with the utmost care.

Areas of focus for the UNP+ project

As part of the UNP+ project, the City of Burgas will consider the feasibility of drafting a separate biodiversity strategy, which would align with and could be adopted as part of the next PIRO.

The City of Burgas will work towards achieving milestones 2 (long term vision), 3 (current state analysis), 4 (action plan), and 5 (communications strategy), as well as refining and enhancing their co-creation work, exploring data on ecosystems and ecosystems services, and engaging the private sector for better data collection.

Summary

The City of Burgas has demonstrated significant progress in integrating urban nature and biodiversity considerations into its planning processes, laying a solid foundation for future improvements. By prioritizing co-creation, leveraging its existing plans such as the PIRO and

Sustainable Mobility Plan, and actively engaging with residents, Burgas is poised to enhance its urban nature strategy. Moving forward, the city will focus on achieving key milestones, including developing a clear long-term vision for urban nature, improving data collection and monitoring systems, and strengthening communication strategies to reach diverse populations.

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State of Play Report - Mannheim

Mannheim has made significant progress in developing its UNP starting with political support and embedding the co-creation process at various stages of the planning process. An inclusive, co-creative process, is particularly important in projects that focus on the liveability of the city and the design of green spaces and parks. Their approach to co-creation, further described in 'co-creation and preparation' section below fulfils the requirements for achieving Milestone 1, which promotes co-creation in the UNP.

In addition, the city has taken significant steps to define a long-term vision and goals, conduct a comprehensive analysis of the current state and translate these results into an action plan with Specific-Measurable-Achievable-Relevant-Time-bound (SMART) goals. The steps of the UNP are analysed in detail below, highlighting both success and existing challenges as well as strategic approaches.

Table 8: UNP milestones and steps where Mannheim sees themselves excelling (green), ready to improve on (blue), or needs support to take the next step (orange)

Steps and Milestones	Mannheim
establish a co-creation process/working structure (milestone 1; steps 2 & 3)	🍃 (green)
long-term vision and goals (milestone 2, step 4)	🍂 (orange)
establish a current state analysis (milestone 3, step 5)	🍃 (green)
develop an action plan (milestone 4, steps 6 &7)	🍂 (orange)
establishing indicators and targets (step 6)	
create a communication plan/external comms (milestone 5, step 8)	🍂 (orange)
monitoring and reporting system (milestone 6, step 9)	
Staff training and capacity building	🍂 (orange)

Introduction to the City

Mannheim, located at the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar rivers, has around 330,000 inhabitants from 170 nations. The city is known for its grid-shaped centre, the 'city of squares', and is an important cultural and industrial centre with landmarks such as the baroque palace and the water tower. Mannheim also offers various natural habitats, including wetlands, inland dunes, and sandy fields, where rare species such as the European hamster and the skylark can be found.

Figure 26: Mannheim Grune Stadt und Stadt am Fluss Neckar (Copyright: Daniel Lukac Stadtmarketing Mannheim GmbH)

Around 50% of Mannheim's urban area is green space: 4,800 hectares are under nature and landscape protection, 1,800 hectares are woodland, and there are numerous parks such as the 42-hectare Luisenpark and the 21-hectare Herzogenriedpark. Since 2024, the former Spinelli military site has been converted into an 80-hectare green space, 18 hectares of which are specifically for the protection of endangered species.
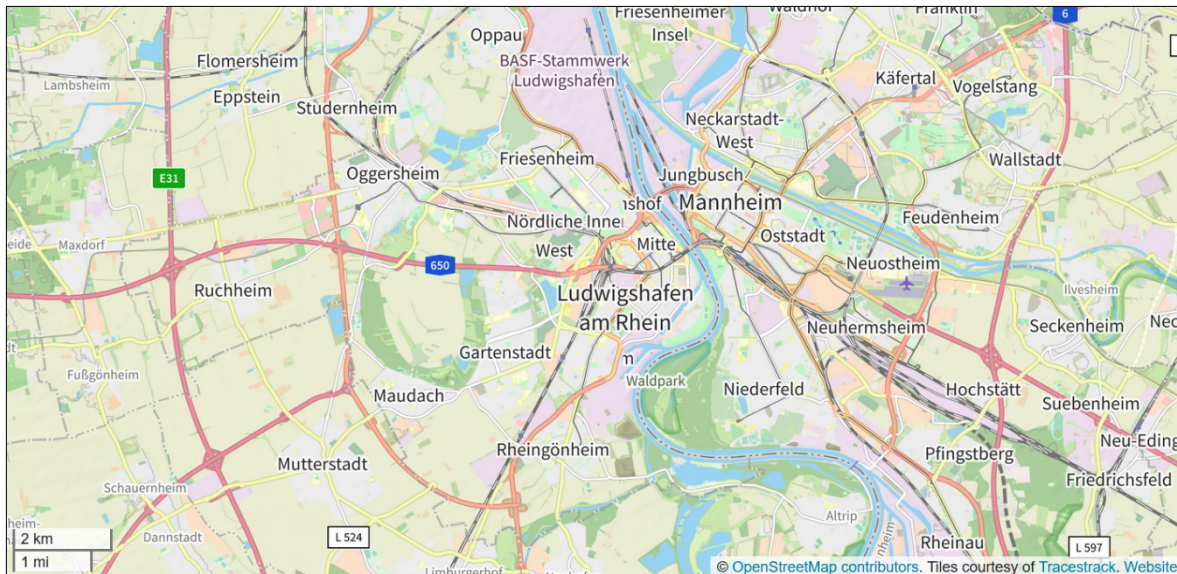
Figure 27: City of Mannheim (OpenStreetMaps)

As a central transport hub in Europe with the second largest inland port, Mannheim faces the challenge of harmonising urban development - such as housing construction and infrastructure - with the protection of the environment and biodiversity. In densely populated areas, there is often insufficient access to green spaces, and measures to promote biodiversity are the subject of controversial debate. Mannheim is proactively addressing these challenges through various initiatives, such as:

- Mannheim is leading the way with its Local Green Deal, a pioneering initiative to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. This ambitious goal is being driven by a collaborative effort involving citizens, businesses, and research institutions. The initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and promote sustainable practices across the city.

- The City is actively developing a comprehensive biodiversity strategy to conserve and promote biodiversity in the city. This strategy emphasises the importance of integrating diverse community voices and promoting citizen involvement in conservation efforts. The strategy aims to protect endangered species, improve urban green spaces, and raise awareness of biodiversity conservation among the city's residents.

- Guided by federal and state conservation mandates, Mannheim is conducting a biotope network planning to create interconnected habitats. This planning approach aims to protect native flora and fauna by linking diverse ecosystems across the city. The biotope network not only supports biodiversity, but also contributes to climate adaptation efforts by preserving natural habitats and mitigating the effects of urbanisation on local wildlife.

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Progress along each of the UNP Steps

This section summarises the City of Mannheim's responses from the self-assessment process, complemented with desk research by ICLEI and inputs from City representatives. Each section is one of the phases of the UNP framework: co-creation and preparation, action planning, and implementation and monitoring. The sections contain a brief description about how, or why not, the City has met the associated milestones of the UNP framework, a short dive into the place-based specifics of each section. A summary of milestones met is illustrated in Table 8.

This section further outlines the City of Mannheim's efforts related to urban greening and biodiversity. It reviews the city's work in context of the UNP framework - milestones achieved, progress along each step, and what areas the City would like to focus on in the UNP+ project.

Co-creation and Preparation (milestone 1, steps 1 - 3)

Mannheim has successfully established a co-creation framework that actively involves citizens and stakeholders in the urban planning process. This is a central component of the city's urban nature initiatives, which are strongly oriented towards the needs of the community.

Figure 28: Steps 1-3 of the UNP process

Political Support in Mannheim

- The Mannheim 2030 mission statement articulates a goal of creating intact biotopes and increasing biodiversity by 2030.
- Signatory of the Edinburg Declaration
- Participant in the EU mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities with a focus on enhancing and improving biodiversity.
- Signature of the 'Biologische Vielfalt in Kommunen" Declaration on Living Together in Diversity

To ensure comprehensive public participation, Mannheim has developed a broad spectrum of engagement instruments. These include public meetings, digital platforms and workshops, which allow for a multitude of voices and perspectives to be incorporated. Such inclusive approaches ensure that the opinions and concerns of all residents are reflected in the planning of urban nature projects. Notably, Mannheim actively integrates community feedback into its planning and continuously seeks opportunities to enhance the participatory process. In addition, the city answered 'yes' to the self-assessment question of whether it uses a co-creation process to co-create, co-design, co-implement and co-monitor the city's UNP (see Annex: Self Assessment Questionnaire), stating that future updates to components of the plan will use a co-creation process. These include an ongoing Municipal Biodiversity Strategy (MBS) and plans to update the Climate Impact Adaption Concept. Targeted stakeholder involvement is also evident in the planning of the biotope

network, which includes a round table with nature conservation associations and farmers, with a focus on the outskirts of the city.

A central element of Mannheim's co-creation process is the Participation Advisory Board, which acts as a permanent advisory body: The "Participation Advisory Board… a permanently established advisory body to ensure and improve the quality of the city's citizen participation process." This structure supports the quality of citizen engagement and ensures that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the planning process. In addition, the co-creation tools, methods and processes are suitable for a wide range of demographic groups, with a focus on accessibility, inclusivity and representation. There is a website with all upcoming and existing possibilities to engage in the city development. One example is an unsealing approach with an interdisciplinary working group for citizen ideas, as well as efforts to update the Integrated Spatial Development Plan through urban conversations and online dialogue. Also the local green deal is presented on this website with ideas how everyone can help to create a sustainable and climate neutral city and with inspirations from other citizens and companies. In the city administration, the Department for Democracy and Strategy, acts as a central cross-sectional service provider and contributes to a self-imposed set of rules for citizen participation. Further, sustainable participation is emphasised not only in planning but also in the subsequent maintenance of the city's natural resources, reflecting the city's commitment to building long-term relationships with its citizens.

However, despite these successes, Mannheim acknowledges the challenges associated with ensuring long-term citizen involvement. For example, it can be difficult to secure enduring public engagement that extends beyond individual projects. Additionally, reaching all citizens remains a challenge, particularly marginalised groups. Mannheim articulates this clearly that they are continuing to struggle with how to "reach all citizens". Previous planning processes related to the content of urban nature utilised a co-creation process with diverse stakeholders including city staff, decision makers, private sector, NGOs, residents, including entities representing and advocating for marginalised communities and groups. Examples include the Climate Protection Action Plan, involving a Citizens' Council and a Youth Citizens' Council, as well as the biotope network planning. The Mission Statement 2030 serves as a guiding framework for these initiatives.

Action planning (milestones 2-5, steps 4 - 8)

In terms of action planning, Mannheim is making significant progress, particularly in setting clear and measurable long-term goals for urban nature. The City's in-process, biodiversity strategy, will contain SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) criteria to ensure effective implementation of the action plans for mainstreaming urban nature, biodiversity and nature-based solutions. This integration is

Figure 29: Steps 4-8 of the UNP process

crucial to ensure that different initiatives feed into the overall urban planning strategies and create a coherent overall approach.

An outstanding example of Mannheim's proactive approach is the Climate protection action plan with a climate fund (10 Million € per year) to implement the measures which are necessary to get climate neutral until 2030 and the 1000 Trees programme, both of which are part of a comprehensive strategy to improve especially climate adaption but also urban biodiversity. These programmes aim to significantly increase urban greening and at the same time make an important contribution to climate protection. In addition, these initiatives not only promote ecological diversity, but also raise citizens' awareness of the importance of green spaces in the city.

Despite this progress, challenges remain, particularly with regard to the need for a coordinated funding strategy. The self-assessment emphasises that there are "only individual approaches, e.g., climate fund; there is no city-wide strategy." This fragmentation of funding makes it difficult to fully implement the action plans and emphasises the need for a comprehensive financial framework linking all initiatives.

The long-term goals for urban nature have been formally adopted in Mannheim, and the city recognises that these need to be regularly reviewed and updated. Objectives include improving urban biodiversity and promoting access to green spaces for all citizens, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable urban development. This shows that Milestone 2 is well underway, and that Mannheim is proactively working to continuously improve its environmental targets. The city is taking an integrated approach to ensure that targets remain relevant for both biodiversity and the creation of urban green spaces.

Current state of nature and biodiversity (step 5)

> **Mannheim's most important plans for nature and biodiversity** are:
>
> - The **Municipal Biodiversity Strategy**
> - The **Climate Protection Action Plan**

Mannheim has begun to assess the ecological situation in the city but recognises that there are still significant gaps in data collection. There is no central database or register that collects detailed information on the current state of biodiversity in the city, such as the occurrence of species or their development as there is no central register with information on species occurrence development.

The city has started to lay some foundations, but the current collection of data on biodiversity and urban ecosystems is incomplete. More systematic recording and documentation is needed for better decision-making and to guide measures to promote biodiversity. There is also a

need for clear responsibilities and more specialised staff to improve the quality and quantity of data collected. The self-assessment recognised that the focus is on biotope network planning, particularly in the outskirts of the city: "biotope network planning mainly focuses the outskirts of the city." Various interest groups, including nature conservation organisations and farmers, are working together to enable improved ecological connectivity in the city and its surroundings.

This situation highlights the need for systematic biotope mapping and habitat assessment in order to make informed decisions and develop targeted actions to promote biodiversity. This information is essential to monitor the progress of urban conservation projects and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies implemented, indicating that Milestone 3 is underway.

Indicators and targets (step 6)

Mannheim is actively working to develop specific indicators and targets to measure progress in urban nature and nature conservation. The city already has up-to-date data and maps on its green and blue infrastructure, which have been updated over the last five years. These include projects such as Free Space Mannheim 2030 - green corridors, blue streams and the ongoing update of the integrated spatial development plan Blue, Mannheim, Blue, which focus on the sustainable use and protection of water resources.

In the area of biodiversity, the city is currently working on improving spatial mapping and documentation. Progress in the planning of the biotope network, which is supported by the regional landscape plan and the conversion to climate-stable forests, among other things, is crucial for the development of new indicators for recording biodiversity. Mannheim also documents ecosystem services and their benefits. There are indicators for monitoring soil protection, air pollution control, small-scale monitoring and tree monitoring. However, a central register with information on the development of species occurrences is still missing. The city recognises that a bundled central data strategy needs to be further developed in order to close these gaps.

Mannheim also uses advanced tools such as sMArtroots, Climate View and urban climate analysis to monitor the status of and risks to nature in the city. The protection of soil and air as well as the monitoring of small areas are also part of these efforts. In terms of co-benefits, Mannheim emphasises that they have a good understanding of the social, spatial and institutional barriers and opportunities to maximise the synergies between urban nature and other urban development areas. These insights are anchored in the Mission Statement 2030, which emphasises the broad benefits and advantages of urban nature. These efforts are in line with Milestone 4 (step 7), which focuses on creating an action plan that prioritises urban nature, biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

However, the development of a communication strategy (Milestone 5) remains a challenge for Mannheim as they do not have a strategic communication public awareness and education strategy. It has recognised that educating the public about the benefits of urban nature is crucial to encourage citizen engagement. To address this gap, the city's Local Green Deal Group plans to develop a comprehensive communication strategy aimed at raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and green spaces. The aim is to encourage citizen

engagement and participation in urban nature conservation projects through targeted information campaigns to strengthen active community involvement.

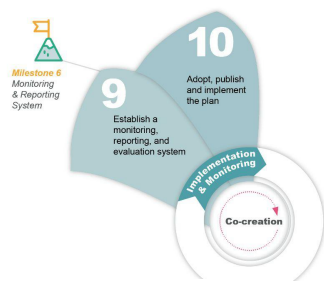*Mainstreaming, monitoring and reporting (milestone 6, steps 9 and 10)*

Figure 30: Steps 9-10 of the UNP process

Mannheim has made considerable progress in monitoring its environmental objectives, particularly in the area of climate protection. The city has mainstreamed the use of various monitoring tools to assess progress towards its long-term goals as well as the specific aims and targets of the action plan. An important monitoring tool that Mannheim uses is ClimateView which "provides a comprehensive overview of [local] climate-related actions and their impacts." In addition, the city is supported by the Geoportal, which provides important long-term data and thus promotes transparency. These tools enable the city to visualise and analyse its progress in various areas of climate protection. The identification of data requirements and sources is also a focus of the city's monitoring strategy.

Despite these efforts, however, there are significant limitations to the biodiversity data. The self-assessment states that there is no central register with information on species occurrence. These gaps emphasise the need to further develop the monitoring and reporting systems in order to obtain a more comprehensive picture of biodiversity in the city and to be able to better evaluate the effectiveness of mainstreaming measures implemented. An important part of the city's future monitoring strategy is also to improve the Geographic Information System (GIS). Currently, data management is spread across different departments and not all stakeholders are fully aware of the data available. The city is working on a data strategy that aims to define how the data should be collected, managed and where it should be made accessible. The city's vision is that each department has its own GIS experts, or that there are at least 1-2 people who are familiar with the data and are responsible for managing it. Currently, GIS capacity is partially available in the Department of Climate, Nature, and the Environment, but there is a lack of staff and resources to comprehensively manage all relevant data. The operationalisation of biodiversity monitoring will play a key role in mainstreaming actions to protect biodiversity and promote nature in the city.

Areas of focus for the UNP+ project

As part of the UNP+ project, the City of Mannheim will continue to make progress towards each of the UNP milestones with a particular focus on the following thematic areas:

- **Biodiversity enhancement**: As part of the UNP+, Mannheim aims to set clear targets for improving urban biodiversity. This includes specific measures to protect and promote the diversity of plant and animal species in the city (strategic goals). Furthermore, the city is in the process of developing a municipal biodiversity strategy that will set long-term goals and develop concrete measures for enhancing biodiversity with different stakeholders.

- **Community engagement and participation**: Building on the successful co-creation processes already established, Mannheim plans to deepen community involvement in future updates of the UNP. This will include outreach to underrepresented groups to ensure that all voices are heard in urban planning. In addition, initiatives will focus on maintaining long-term relationships with citizens through continuous engagement and feedback mechanisms, such as the Participation Advisory Board.

- **Climate adaptation strategies**: Mannheim intends to revise its climate adaptation strategies to better address the impacts of climate change on urban nature and biodiversity. Efforts will focus on implementing nature-based solutions that enhance urban resilience while also providing ecological benefits.

- **Monitoring and evaluation framework**: Enhancing the city's data collection and monitoring systems will be a priority to ensure that accurate information is available for assessing the effectiveness of urban nature initiatives. Further, the development of specific indicators and targets for measuring progress in biodiversity and urban greening efforts will be a focus area, aligning with the city's long-term sustainability goals.

- **Integrated spatial development**: The Local Green Deal Group will play a pivotal role as a central cross-sectional service provider, coordinating efforts to integrate urban nature into the city's spatial development plans. Mannheim will also engage stakeholders through city talks and online dialogues to ensure that the updated plan reflects the community's needs and priorities.

Summary

Mannheim demonstrates a strong commitment to integrating urban nature, biodiversity, and climate action into its broader development goals. By leveraging innovative co-creation processes, strategic action planning, and targeted initiatives like the Local Green Deal and the Municipal Biodiversity Strategy, Mannheim is proactively addressing challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate adaptation, and equitable access to green spaces. While gaps remain in data collection, funding strategies, and long-term citizen engagement, the city's ongoing efforts highlight its dedication to achieving sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development.

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City of Mannheim. Free Space Mannheim 2030 - green corridors, blue streams. Online resource: https://www.mannheim.de/de/stadt-gestalten/planungskonzepte/freiraum-mannheim2 (accessed October 2024). The website provides information on the initiative, which aims to create a sustainable network of open spaces in Mannheim in order to improve the quality of life. It contains details on projects such as the Green Corridor North-East, which is being realised as part of the Federal Garden Show 2023, as well as planned measures to create climate- and resource-friendly forms of housing.

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Where do we go from here?

These five narrative State of Play Reports provide a snapshot in time of where Barcelona, Paris, Belgrade, Burgas, and Mannheim are starting their work related to the Urban Nature Plan framework. They are based on what cities know and what they shared between May and November 2024. UNP+ project partners expect more, and emerging, information to be shared through the reflexive monitoring process, which is led by Trinity College Dublin and will happen on an ongoing basis throughout the next two years of the project.

UNP+ project partners will use the information in this report as a foundation for providing technical support to the cities, for developing the capacity building program, and for guiding the topics covered in the Urban Nature Exchanges, as well as, for informing the scientific knowledge generated by the project. Together with the D1.2 Case Studies report and the D4.2 Establishing a Greening Cities Baseline report, these State of Play Reports provide insight into where the cities are starting and where they are already moving towards in the development of their Urban Nature Plan framework. It is a dynamic process, which will be kept up to date through the continued collaboration of the lead authors of these three reports – University of East London, Trinity College Dublin, and ICLEI.

The Cities: Lessons to learn and lessons to share

What is shared in this report demonstrates that all the cities in the UNP+ project have unique needs and shared strengths in their Urban Nature Plan process. Indeed, all cities, regardless of their urban greening and nature progress, seek additional support to advance their urban greening goals. And likewise, all cities are able to offer valuable knowledge and experiences to share. The following sections provide a few examples that came to the forefront during the self-assessment process. More information and examples are available in each of the Cities' State of Play Reports, D1.2 Case Studies and D4.2 Establishing a Greening Cities Baseline.

What Cities Are Asking

Belgrade seeks targeted support in several key areas to advance its strategic goals and action plan implementation. These include establishing continuous and inclusive participation processes, securing long-term financing, and fostering efficient interdepartmental collaboration. The city is also focused on enhancing its current state analysis, particularly regarding biodiversity, ecosystems, ecosystem services, and citizen engagement. Additionally, Belgrade aims to access reliable data on privately owned or managed land and strengthen partnerships with the private sector.

Burgas is interested in receiving support to establish a long-term vision for nature, alongside developing a comprehensive biodiversity strategy and action plan that integrates nature-based solutions. The city seeks to enhance its current state analysis, with a focus on ecosystems, ecosystem services, and engaging both the private sector and citizens. Additionally, Burgas aims to create an effective communication, education, and public awareness strategy to support these efforts.

Mannheim is looking to develop indicators related to biodiversity measurement and climate adaptation efforts.

Paris would like to further develop their nature financing mechanisms, interdepartmental collaboration, and biodiversity strategies. Additionally, Paris seeks support regarding co-creation with vulnerable populations, coherence across the many existing nature and greening plans, and developing and reporting on biodiversity indicators.

Barcelona is seeking targeted support with integrating new political priorities, developing a long-term financing strategy, interdepartmental collaboration, and private-sector engagement.

What Cities Are Offering

Through their work developing the Linear Park Plan and the Green Infrastructure Strategy, **Belgrade** has knowledge to share regarding co-creative urban planning and green infrastructure projects. **Mannheim**, like Belgrade, has experience with co-creation (participatory governance) and community engagement strategies. Additionally, Mannheim brings lessons learned from engaging with innovative financing mechanisms like the Climate Fund initiative.

With a strong focus on integrating environmental and social justice (their Greenery Model), **Barcelona** offers experience with reporting and monitoring processes and co-creation. **Paris** has long emphasized measurable progress (in the form of key performance indicators) and multi-level collaboration. The city can offer important lessons learned regarding developing key performance indicators as well as with public communication. Both Paris and Barcelona can share experiences in cultivating a culture of local and regional collaboration.

Annex: Self Assessment Questionnaire

Urban Nature Plans Plus:
City Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Introduction

Recognising that every City is in a different stage of planning for urban nature and biodiversity, Cities can use this internal mapping exercise to determine whether their existing planning activities include the key components of an Urban Nature Plan (UNP) - process design, framing of 'nature' and implementation pathways. Cities are encouraged to use this document to engage in a co-creation process and dialogue with a diverse group of stakeholders. This document can serve two functions:

Build the case for an UNP. Before committing to a UNP, a city can preliminarily fill out this document to provide city-specific evidence of what developing an UNP would require. The results highlight the specific effort needed, as well as, the benefits gained from committing to developing a UNP.

Begin the Urban Nature Planning process. After securing political commitment and establishing a working structure, begin your co-creation process with diverse stakeholders by completing and verifying this mapping exercise to determine your city's starting point for developing an UNP and defining your roadmap for the continuous learning process.

The UNP+ project builds upon the European Commission's work with ICLEI Europe and EuroCities, and the resulting Urban Nature Plan Guidance, Toolkit, and Platform. UNP+ cities have already committed to an Urban Nature Plan and have started the process. The UNP+ Greening Cities will be supported by the project consortium to prioritise and build on learning opportunities and gaps and needs identified by going through the questionnaire. In the context of the project it serves the UNP+ cities in the following ways:

Lighthouse City	Greening City
Validate the existence of a UNP	Understand hat has been achieved in regard to planning for nature in the urban environment
Capture a snapshot of activities in regard to nature in the urban environment and support the development of case studies	Identify areas for collaboration and strengthening the urban nature-related activities in Greening Cities
Identify continuous learning and sharing opportunities	Inform which topics the Greening Cities will work on with the UNP+ consortium

	Begin setting up the working structure
	Initiate the reflexive monitoring process and introduce the dynamic learning agenda; input from this survey will establish the RM baseline and feed into Deliverable (M12 UNP Knowledge and Reflexive Labs, December 2024) (framed by the Dynamic Learning Agenda).
Contribute to D1.1 State of Play Report(s) for each UNP City (due M12)	

How to use this document

We suggest that the person leading the process of completing the internal mapping of the UNP narrative be the same person who will lead the reflexive monitoring process and that they work with relevant departments and stakeholders to complete the questionnaire. After you decide on the process of how you will answer the questions and with whom, fill out the tables to the best of your ability, adding links and notes directly to the document where supporting materials can be found. You can also add anecdotes and statements and/or justifications for why you ticked a box 'yes/no/in progress.'

Possible guiding questions:

> Will you hold one-on-one interviews?
> Will you host a round-table discussion?
> Will you answer the questionnaire in one sitting or spread out over a period of months?

Assessing the key elements of a UNP

Co-creation process

	Ideal	Status
1.	We are using a co-creation process to co-create, co-design, co-implement, and co-monitor our city's UNP and future updates to components of the plan will utilise a co-creation process.	☐ Yes ☐ No Where can more information be found?
2.	Previous planning processes related to the content of urban nature and urban nature utilised a co-creation process with diverse stakeholders including city staff, decision makers, private sector, NGOs, residents,	☐ Yes, all or some ☐ Yes, but we want to improve it ☐ No, none What does the city prioritise when deciding who to involve in planning processes?

3+.	Tools, methods, and processes for co-creation are appropriate for a wide-range of engagement of the demographics we target, with a focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and representation.	☐ Yes, all of the time ☐ Yes, some of the time, and we want to do more ☐ No, none of the time What possibilities exist for stakeholders to engage and influence the planning process? How do you understand co-creation? What does it look like in your city?

Thinking about the process of establishing a co-creation method, we considered inclusivity and representation of diverse groups and….

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you answered **YES, to question number one: we are using a co-creation process to create, design, implement, and monitor our UNP and are committing to updating the components of the plan with co-creation processes in the future,** your city meets the minimum standard for the co-creation key element of an UNP. Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

If you answered NO to questions 1 or 2, please, respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring and refer to **Steps 1 through 3 of the UNP Process Guidance** for further support.

Learning Outcomes (If you answered yes or Yes, all or some to Q1-3)	
Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities*) that you can share with other cities?	
Critical turning points (If you answered no to Q1-3)	

	What are the critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process)* that you have identified?	
	The learning objectives (i.e. *What do you need to learn to address a barrier or opportunity as identified in the critical turning point)* in a way that the higher-level goals of establishing a co-creative process are targeted?	

Baseline inventory

	Ideal	Status
1.	Green and blue infrastructure. We know, understand, and have documentation that was updated within the past 5 years related to current status and spatial mapping that makes use of relevant and effective indicators to describe the current situation and future risk exposure.	☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but we want to improve it ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
2.	Biodiversity. We know, understand, and have documentation that was updated within the past 5 years related to current status and spatial mapping that makes use of relevant and effective indicators to describe the current situation and future risk exposure.	☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but we want to improve it ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
3 +.	Ecosystem Services. We monitor and document the benefits (ecosystem services) from urban nature and have effective indicators to monitor needs and use.	☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but we want to improve it ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
4 +.	Co-benefits. We know and understand the needs, barriers, and possibilities (social, spatial, institutional, and environmental) for urban nature in order to maximise co-benefits and minimise trade-offs.	☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but we want to improve it ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:

5.	Other significant categories related to urban nature, include socio-economic and demographic changes, trends, and expectations. 'Significant' is locally, holistically, and transparently defined. We know, understand, and have documentation that was updated within the past 5 years related to current status and spatial mapping that makes use of relevant and effective indicators to describe the current situation and future risk exposure.	❒ Yes ❒ Yes, but we want to improve it ❒ In progress ❒ No Comments:
6.	Baseline reviews and current state assessments document gaps related to data and indicators.	❒ Yes ❒ Yes, but we want to improve it ❒ In progress ❒ No Where is this documented? And/or what data and indicators are missing?
7.	We have an up-to-date review and list of relevant policies, strategies, plans, and programmes at use in the city.	❒ Yes ❒ Yes, but we want to improve it ❒ In progress ❒ No Comments:
8.	We have analysed legal compliance regarding environmental\sustainability at the local, regional, national, and EU-level.	❒ Yes ❒ Yes, but we want to improve it ❒ In progress ❒ No Comments:
9.	We have an up-to-date 'map' of key stakeholders.	❒ Yes ❒ Yes, but we want to improve it ❒ In progress ❒ No Comments:
10.	The City has a procedure in place to update baseline assessments as new information becomes available, such as results from this checklist	❒ Yes ❒ No Comments:

Thinking about developing a Baseline inventory for nature….

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you have answered 'Yes' to all questions, your city meets the minimum requirement related to a baseline assessment for an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **Yes, but we want to improve it** or **No**, to any questions, please refer to the **Process Guidance for Step 5. Analyse the current state of nature and biodiversity and the associated Milestone 3: current state analysis and** respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

Learning outcomes (if you answered yes OR in progress to Q1-10)	
Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities)* that you can share with other cities?	
Critical turning points (if you answered yes, but we want to improve it, OR no to Q1-10)	
The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process)* that you have identified?	
The learning objectives (i.e., What knowledge and skills are necessary) to conduct a baseline inventory, addressing barriers or opportunities as identified in critical turning points, while targeting the higher-level goals related to baseline inventory?	

Long-term Vision, Goals, and Targets

Ideal	Status

1.	Our city has formally adopted a long-term vision (20-30 year+ time horizon) for urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions that is as ambitious as, or more ambitious than, the long-term goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030.	❏ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Where can this information be found? Does your city have a resilience strategy? (e.g. climate resilience, and where can it be found?):
2.	Our city has formally adopted long-term goals (10-15 years time horizon) as well as short and medium-term objectives (5-10 years) that align with the City's long-term vision related to biodiversity, nature-based solutions, and blue and green infrastructure.	❏ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Where can this information be found:
3.	Our city's nature and biodiversity goals and objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, result-based and time-bound (SMART); co-created and assigned to a responsible individual or organisation.	❏ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:

Thinking about developing a long-term vision, goals, and targets….

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you have answered 'Yes' to all questions, your city meets the minimum requirement related to long-term vision, goals, and targets for an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **Yes, but we want to improve it** or **No**, to any questions, please, refer to the **Yes, but we want to improve it** or **No**, to any questions, please, refer to **Steps 1 through 4 of the UNP Process Guidance and** respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

	Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities*) that you can share with other cities?	
	The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process*) that you have identified?	
	The learning objectives (i.e. *What knowledge and skills are necessary*) to develop a long-term vision, goals, and targets, while addressing barriers or opportunities identified in critical turning points, and targeting the higher-level goals related to long-term vision, goals, and targets?	

Action Plan

	Ideal	Status
1.	Our city has an action plan(s) that includes urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions as a priority, and the plan(s) contain short (1-5 years) and mid-term (5-10 years) objectives and long-term goals (10-15 years) with measurable aims, concrete measures, and assigned responsibilities that are based on the long-term vision, goals, and targets.	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
2.	Our city's action plan(s) include a clear and specific budget with details of where the funding will come from both in the short and long-term, and includes details for the long-term maintenance and structural support of actions, programmes, and initiatives to care and maintain the implemented urban nature solutions.	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
3.	Our city's related action plan(s) clearly articulate the lead responsible entity or individual, as well as additional stakeholders involved. All stakeholders	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No

	are involved in an ongoing process to implement and update the action plan(s).	Comments:
4.	Our city's action plan(s) for urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions integrate principles of social and environmental justice. This aims to ensure that individuals have equal access to urban nature policymaking processes and the many potential benefits provided by green spaces. *for optional reference: Sustainable Just Cities Principles: https://sustainablejustcities.eu/principles	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:
5.	Our city's action plan(s) for urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions include the expected impact of each action in relation to the green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity of the designated urban/peri-urban area, as well as social and economic implications for vulnerable populations.	❐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:
6.	Our city's action plan(s) featuring urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions are supported by meaningful key data and indicators and priorities are selected based on the results of the baseline assessments, which include current state mapping and assessments of future risks and vulnerabilities (climate-related, socio-economic, technological, legal, and political).	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ Yes, but we want to improve it ❐ No Comments:
7.	Our city's action plan(s) featuring urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions are approved by a formal Council decision.	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:
8.	Progress towards goals and objectives is regularly and routinely checked (see checklist on monitoring and reporting).	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:
9+	Our city's action plan(s) for urban nature are included in and/or aligned and congruent with other relevant urban/regional development plans	❐ Yes ❐ Partially ❐ No Which urban/regional development plans:
10+	Our city's action plan(s) includes consideration of legal issues of land ownership, access and use rights, consideration of diverse capabilities, mobility, and transportation etc.	❐ Yes ❐ Partially ❐ No Comments:

1 1.	Impact(s) of the action plan(s) are regularly and routinely checked and compared with targets.	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:
1 2.	Achievement of goals and activities and analysis of impact is systematically reported to the Mayor, City Council, department heads, citizens and all relevant stakeholders.	❐ Yes ❐ In progress ❐ No Comments:

Thinking about your city's action plan(s)....

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you have answered 'Yes' to all questions, your city meets the minimum requirement related to Action Plan for an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **Yes, but we want to improve it** or **No**, to any questions, please, refer to the **Yes, but we want to improve it** or **No**, to any questions, please, refer to **Action Planning Steps 4 through 8** and respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

If you answered yes, and it is up-to-date OR in progress to Q1-12:	
Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities*) that you can share with other cities?	
If you answered yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated, OR no to Q1-12, what are:	
The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process*) that you have identified?	

	The learning objectives *(i.e., What knowledge and skills are necessary) to develop an action plan, addressing barriers or opportunities identified in critical turning points, and targeting the higher-level goals related to action planning?*	

Monitoring and Reporting

	Ideal	Status
1.	The City monitors progress towards the long-term goals, as well as, objectives and targets contained in the action plan(s) according to a defined process and timeline.	☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
2.	Data trends and impact are tracked and evaluated	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
3.	Compliance with legal requirements are tracked, where applicable.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
4.	Data requirements, sources, and analysis needs have been identified for all indicators.	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
5.	Contact persons for all data sources understand their roles and monitoring structure and roles are described in associated job descriptions, as relevant.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
6.	Resources (human, financial, technological) are adequately allocated.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:

7.	The time frame and timeline (including reporting intervals) for all targets and indicators are defined.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
8.	Key data are available on a long-term basis.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
9.	Reference, baseline, and values exist for all targets and indicators.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
10.	Monitoring data is available to the public either permanently in real time or updated periodically in an easy-to-understand and accessible format, considerate of language.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No How does the City determine what data to share and in what format(s) are they available? (can link to location)

Thinking about monitoring and reporting….

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you have answered 'Yes' to all questions, your city meets the minimum requirement related to monitoring and evaluation for an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **Yes, but we need to review and update the process,** or **No,** please refer to the **Process Guidance for Step 9. Establish monitoring and evaluation system** and respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

	If you answered yes, and it is up-to-date OR in progress to Q1-10:	
	Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities)* that you can share with other cities?	
	If you answered yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated, OR no to Q1-10, what are:	
	The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something*	

	changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process) that you have identified?	
	The learning objectives *(i.e., What knowledge and skills are necessary)* to establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms, addressing barriers or opportunities identified in critical turning points, and targeting the higher-level goals related to monitoring and reporting?	

Mainstreaming nature as a priority

	Ideal	Status
1.	Mainstreaming urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions is institutionalised in our city via legislation that requires the consideration or implementation of urban nature and nature-based solutions across multiple departments.	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No Which departments are specifically implicated?: Which departments are not implicated?:
2.	Mainstreaming urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions is institutionalised in our city via legislation that gives preference to 'green before grey' decision-making and infrastructure, while always considering the social impacts of the proposed action or legislation.	☐ Yes, and it is up-to-date ☐ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:
3.	Municipal policies and planning processes from multiple departments contain urban nature, biodiversity, and nature-based solution priorities (e.g. mobility, development, waste management)	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Which plans, policies, and processes?:
4.	The City's action plans/ strategies contain objectives, targets, and timelines for mainstreaming urban nature and nature-based solutions.	☐ Yes ☐ In progress ☐ No Comments:

Thinking about mainstreaming nature as a priority....

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, your city meets the minimum requirement for Mainstreaming in an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **no to all of the above,** please refer to **Step 5 Analyse the Current State of nature and biodiversity and Step 6 Set Indicators and Targets of the UNP Guidance** and respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

If you answered yes, and it is up-to-date OR in progress to Q1-4:	
Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities)* that you can share with other cities?	
If you answered yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated, OR no to Q1-4, what are:	
The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process)* that you have identified?	
The learning objectives (i.e. *What knowledge and skills are necessary)* to mainstream nature as a priority, addressing barriers or opportunities identified in critical turning points, and targeting the higher-level goals related to mainstreaming nature?	

Communication and public awareness strategy

Ideal	Status

1.	Our City is committed to increasing the knowledge base about Urban Nature and to transparent reporting regarding progress towards goals and objectives, and we have a strategic communication, public awareness and education strategy that is followed.	❏ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:
2.	The communication, education, and public awareness strategy was developed on the basis of an analysis of knowledge, attitude and current behaviours of citizens, stakeholders, and target audiences.	❏ Yes ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:
3.	The communication, education, and public awareness strategy includes target audiences with tailored and inclusive communication actions/interventions appropriate to the audience and desired change in behaviour.	❏ Yes, and it is up-to-date ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:
4.	Internal city communication and involvement needs have been analysed, identified, and accounted for in the communication strategy.	❏ Yes ❏ Yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:
5.	The communication strategy includes milestones, targets, activities, and allocates appropriate resources (human and financial) for implementing the plan.	❏ Yes ❏ In progress ❏ No Comments:

Thinking about communication and public awareness strategy in your city….

We struggled, but we managed to overcome challenges	We are continuing to struggle	We didn't have any issues	We haven't started this, yet

If you answered yes to all of these questions, your city meets the minimum requirement for a communication, education, and public awareness strategy in an Urban Nature Plan. **Please, respond to learning outcomes to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.**

If you answered **Yes, but we do not have related action steps or strategies in place, or they need to be updated,** please refer to the **Process Guidance for Step 8. Communication, education, and public awareness strategy** and respond to critical turning points to set the baseline for reflexive monitoring.

If you answered yes, and it is up-to-date OR in progress to Q1-5:	
Are there any **learning outcomes** (i.e. *Learning outcomes are innovative ways the team handles the barriers or opportunities)* that you can share with other cities?	
If you answered yes, but it needs to be reviewed and updated, OR no to Q1-5, what are:	
The critical turning points (i.e. *Critical turning points are important moments where something changes that helps or hinders the realisation of this step of the UNP+ process)* that you have identified?	
The learning objectives (i.e. *(i.e., What knowledge and skills are necessary)* to develop a communication and public awareness strategy, addressing barriers or opportunities identified in critical turning points, and targeting the higher-level goals related to communication and public awareness?	

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