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Nature-based Solutions in Urban Environments

Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, 6th November 2022

Bild: Helix Pflanzen



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The University of Dublin

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What are nature-based solutions?

- Nature – problem : solution?
- Nature-based solutions are “inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience”: co-benefits
- Nature derived : nature inspired



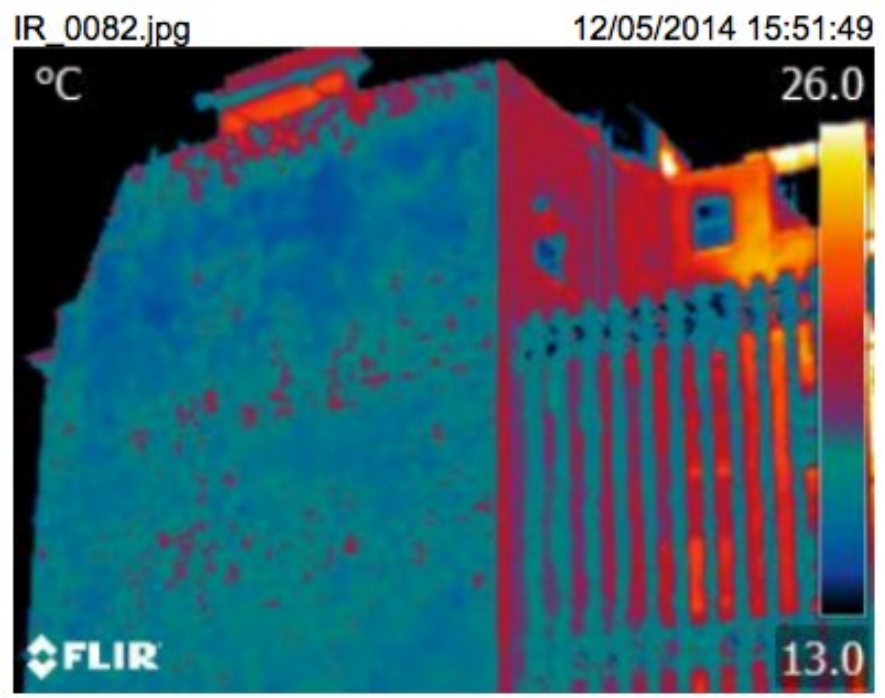
Example : living roofs

- Insulate (heat) and protect (cool) buildings
- Attenuate water – slow the flow
- Reduce noise, glare and vibration
- Capture dust and carbon
- Biodiversity : habitats ('stepping stones' wildlife corridors)









Nature-based innovation



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Potential for nature-based solutions



- **By 2050 about 70% of all humans will be living in cities (6.3bn) and 30% will be living at or below poverty line**
- **Ongoing global decline in biodiversity and the effects of climate change more pronounced**
- **Plenty of underused spaces in urban areas (roofs, walls, etc.)**
- **Increasing societal demand for access to nature, especially in more populated neighbourhoods**



Regreening cities – co-benefits

- **Effective and attractive**
- **Variety of habitats : biodiversity**
- **Reconnect people and nature**
- **Improve well-being and urban environmental quality : quality of life**
- **Opportunities for innovation and (social) enterprises**
- **Increase in value over time : economy of scale**

