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DGNB e.V. Biodiversity Commitment for the 15th UN CBD COP-15

DGNB – the abbreviation (in German) for the German Sustainable Building Council. A non-profit organisation based in Stuttgart, ever since it was founded in 2007 the DGNB has been committed to demonstrably good buildings and urban districts that are worth living in. In straightforward terms, this means building an environment around ourselves with foresight. Our overarching aim is to promote change in the building and property market, engendering an appropriate understanding of quality as a foundation for responsible and sustainable action. With around 1300 members the DGNB turned into Europe's biggest network for sustainable building.

Our aspiration is to raise public awareness of the necessity of sustainable building and, above all, to demonstrate that it is indeed achievable. Furthermore, we realize the impact and influence of the construction and real-estate sector to biodiversity and want to broaden our approach to tackle this important topic.

The DGNB has included "biodiversity" as criterion of the certification system for sustainable buildings in 2011 for districts and 2018 for new building. This provides incentives for building owners to implement a high biotope area quality via low sealing and green areas on roofs and facades. Measures to promote the diversity of animal species at the site and on the building and to link biotopes are just as positively included in the certification result as the avoidance of invasive plant species. The same applies if long-term preservation of the green spaces is achieved through maintenance and development contracts. For a particularly high biotope area quality, there is a so-called Circular-Economy Bonus. Moreover, the criterion "sustainable resource extraction" which tackles biodiversity problems in the value chain was integrated in the certification system in 2009. As buildings become increasingly energy efficient, building material will make up an even greater share of their overall environmental impact. Therefore, sustainable and socio-ecologically acceptable raw material extraction to counteract environmental and social wrongs is integrated in our system.

Furthermore, the DGNB has integrated biodiversity related topics into its academy programme. For example, with the seminar series "urban future". The vision of the DGNB Academy is a more sustainable built environment and sharing knowledge.

DGNB e.V. is willing to commit to:

- Built up partnerships aiming at sectorial biodiversity commitments (e.g., municipalities/ cities, building product manufacturers, construction and real estate industry, financial sector).
 - Target 2021: develop sectorial biodiversity commitments and reporting templates for all relevant stakeholder in a cooperative procedure
 - Target 2022: at least 100 biodiversity commitments signed

- Gather binding support from other multipliers from our network to involve and motivate their members to make a biodiversity commitment
- Strengthen and anchor biodiversity in own initiatives (“Phase Sustainability”, “Klimapositive Städte und Gemeinden”) and raise awareness for the topic
- Expand existing academy programme and knowledge sharing related to biodiversity
- Provide a toolbox for best-practice examples related to biodiversity on the DGNB website
- Expand our committee work related to biodiversity: involve, motivate and discuss
- Further development of the certification system in the area of biodiversity on site and in the supply chain
- Communicate biodiversity related topics continuously to our members and the entire network
- Develop a good-practice guidance for the built environment and the real-estate sector
- Report transparently on progress made

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