



Feel Good Stories

**Military Bases
Transformed into
Wildlife Sanctuaries**



Once no-go military zones at the height of the Cold War, sites along the border of the former Iron Curtain in Germany have been given a new lease of life.



Some 62 former military bases, which once served as defences between East and West Germany during four decades of conflict, are now home to eagles, woodpeckers, bats, beetles and more, after the government decided to convert the unused sites into nature reserves, with some parts also open for public use.



Collectively, the sites cover 31,000 hectares (120 square miles) – the equivalent of 310,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools – and contain a diverse array of meadows, forests and marshes – the perfect environment for rare flora and fauna to thrive.



More than 30 years on from the reunification of the country, the land running along what was once referred to as 'the death strip' – owing to the many lives lost by those trying to cross the border – is now teeming with life and hope.





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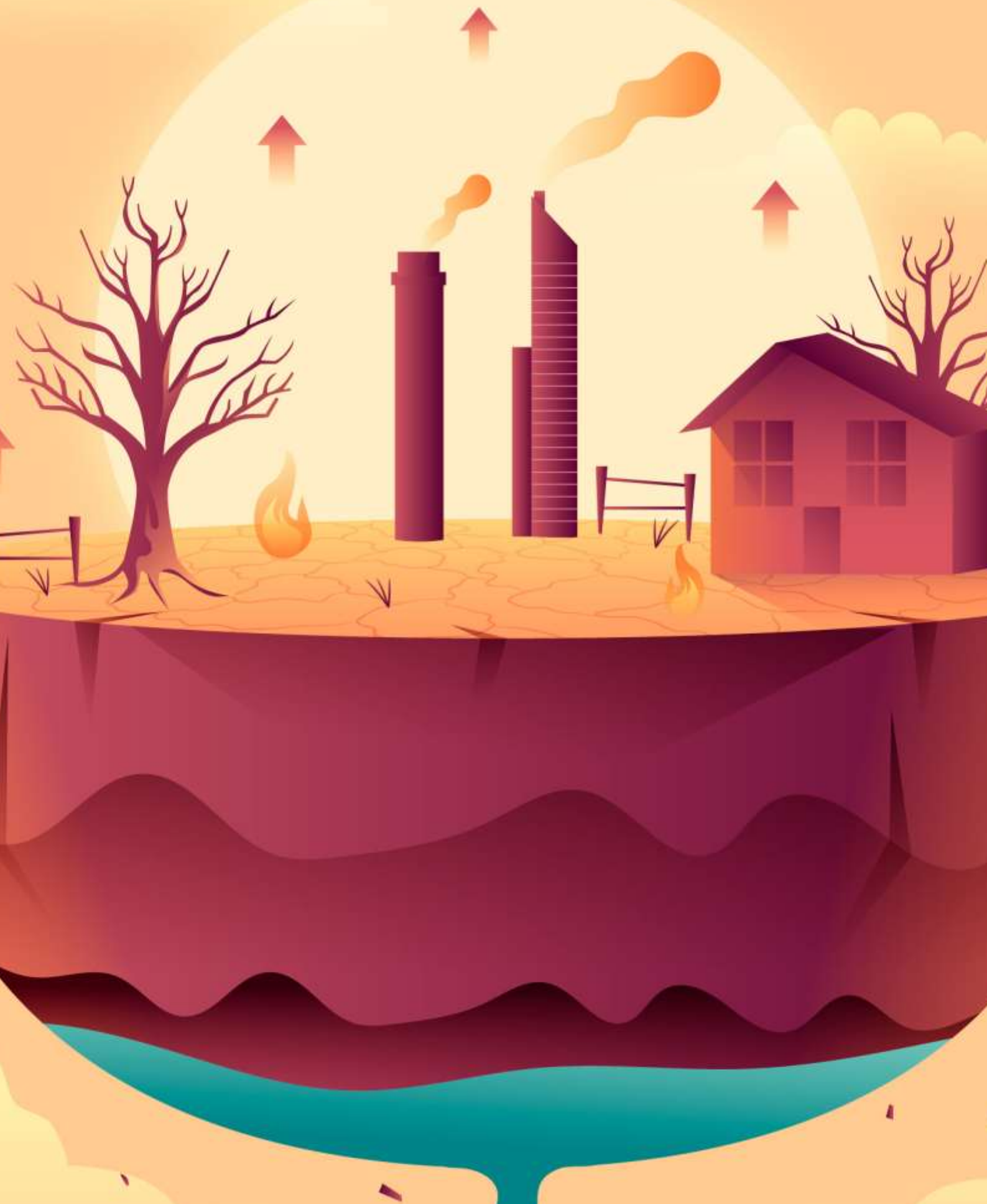
Smart Tech is
Saving the Bees



Far from just being humble producers of honey, bees are responsible for a third of the food we eat, spreading pollen from flower to flower and triggering the growth mechanism that creates fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds.



Although the threats of pests, parasites and climate change have had a detrimental effect on the population saviour in smart tech.



An Irish company called **ApisProtect** (apis meaning bee in Latin), has developed sensors that can be placed under the roof of a beehive to monitor factors including temperature, humidity, sound and movement.



Data from more than 400 smart sensor units, installed in hives managed by 20 commercial beekeepers across the US, Ireland, the UK and South Africa, is now transferred via the cloud to ApisProtect's headquarters in Cork.



After being processed and analysed, actionable insights are sent back to the beekeepers, giving them a better understanding of bee health and productivity, allowing them to prevent problems such as changes in temperature or humidity, before they take hold.



Although a leader in their field, monitoring over 20 million honeybees, ApisProtect is not alone in using smart tech to help create larger, healthier colonies of bees.



The Austrian HIVEOPOLOS research project (beehives of the future), has developed a dance robot bee, which is able to direct forager bees towards nectar or pollen sources and away from areas affected by dangerous pesticides, while Bulgarian Pollenity's Beebot is a personal intercom for hobbyist beekeepers' smart hives, which records changes in temperature and humidity and performs acoustic analysis every 15 minutes.

Smart tech is now officially the bee's knees.





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