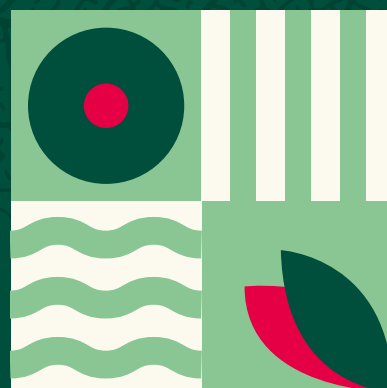


NATURE INCLUSIVITY
AGENDA

2.0

ENGLISH VERSION







NATURE INCLUSIVITY
AGENDA
2.0



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FOREWORD



My grandchildren and I regularly go out for walks. We walk through forests that reflect a million different colours with the passing of the seasons, we breathe in salty sea air, and we enjoy some of the Netherlands' many meadows. I can never forget how lucky we are to have so much nature close to home. And I also remember how incredibly important it is for everybody to have nature around them. In fact, everybody has the right to a green environment and to experience nature close to home. Because nature connects and brings people together, enhances mental and physical health, and is quite simply a source of vitality: everything we need to live comes from nature. I want my grandchildren's generation – and every generation after them – to grow up with that knowledge, and to see the evidence of it around them every day.

If, ten years ago, you had asked me whether that was possible in the Netherlands, I would not have been able to answer. But since being appointed to the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 in the autumn of 2022, the answer to that question became my compass. And today I can say with confidence that the answer is yes. Yes, the Netherlands can become a nature-inclusive country. The solutions are in front of us: we just have to roll up our sleeves and make them happen. I see that in everything that is happening in the various domains, I hear it when I visit the different regions of our country, and I feel it in the positive energy around me.

*'The solutions are in front of us,
we just have to roll up our sleeves and make them happen.'*

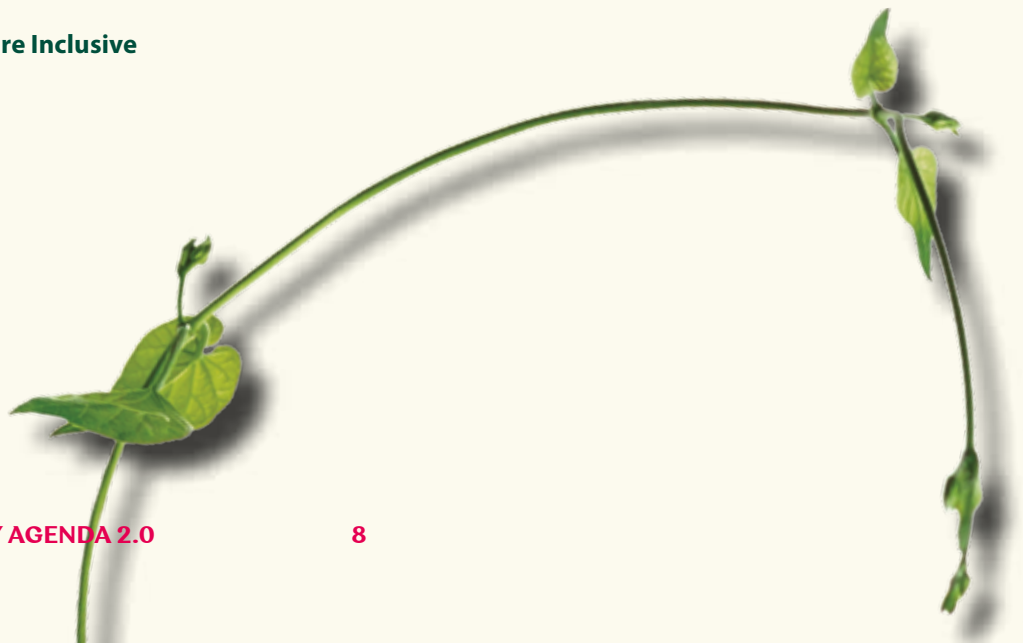
A nature-inclusive society means a society where nature is interwoven into every administrative and operational domain in the Netherlands – from education to infrastructure, and from energy production to how we spend our leisure time. And we are not only talking about how we realise or administer a plan or programme, but also about how we can act differently during the initial phase, around decision-making and financing.

Now, we have the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0. A stronger, broader document to which the domains of health and business parks have been added, as well as a specific action programme with an investment agenda. It is the ambitious but realistic product of a year of intensive collaboration between a growing number of pioneers and professionals from both the private and public sectors. Agenda 2.0 sets a course towards a future-proof and nature-inclusive society. As I said, the solutions are in front of us – and the first step is now (literally) in your hands.

This Agenda deserves to be adopted by all levels of government, umbrella organisations, citizens' initiatives and the business community. We will work to achieve this – through agreements, pacts and covenants, at the national, provincial and local levels, and in every domain. With conviction in our hearts and looking forwards to the future, so that future generations can grow up with and within nature.

So let's get started.

André van der Zande
Ambassador for Nature Inclusive





GLOSSARY OF TERMS

In order to ensure clarity and consistency, we have included a glossary below. We note that some concepts are context-dependent and these definitions are intended to provide guidance. Some have been taken from the Nature Inclusivity Contour Agenda of the Province of South Holland.

BASIC QUALITY OF NATURE (BQN)

The set of conditions that must be fulfilled in order for general species to be, become or remain generally distributed. This is the minimum quality of habitat that a particular species requires.

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity means the diversity of life in all its forms. The diversity of species in nature includes both the number of species and the variation between species (plants, animals, microorganisms and fungi), as well as genetic variation within the same species. Variation between species is important for the proper functioning of food chains and the completion of natural cycles. Genetic diversity is also important to reduce the risk of a species becoming extinct.

ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is a set of plants, animals and microorganisms that occur in a given area and exert an influence on one another. Abiotics – or the non-living environment – also plays an important role in this dynamic system. The interaction is what forms the ecosystem. Examples of ecosystems include forests, coral reefs or grassland. But there are also smaller ecosystems, such as a tree hollow.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

In a healthy ecosystem, nature provides goods or services that benefit people and contribute to the economy and other activities. These include regulating services, such as the natural purification of water or air. In addition, an ecosystem can provide production services, such as clean drinking water. Finally, there are cultural services, of which green recreation and natural heritage are examples.

GREEN-BLUE NETWORK

A network of landscape elements, including canals, streams, hedgerows and rows of trees, where plants and animals live. This network of 'green' land-based elements and 'blue' aquatic elements connects nature reserves and contributes to a broad biodiversity.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Solutions that use elements from nature to benefit people and nature.

NATURE-INCLUSIVE

The extent to which social and economic activities are intertwined with nature and space is deliberately created for biodiversity. This implies that nature plays a central role in every phase of activity – planning, policy, decision-making and management.

NATURE-INCLUSIVE APPROACH

A nature-inclusive approach involves three components: preventing damage to nature, utilising natural opportunities and improving the quality of nature.

QUALITY OF NATURE

The extent to which nature can recover following a setback (robustness). For example, the ability to recover from disruption or adapt to changing circumstances (resilience). Biodiversity is an important measure of the quality of nature.

NATURAL CAPITAL

Natural capital refers to the stock of natural raw materials and resources, such as soil, air, water, minerals and plants.

TRUE PRICING

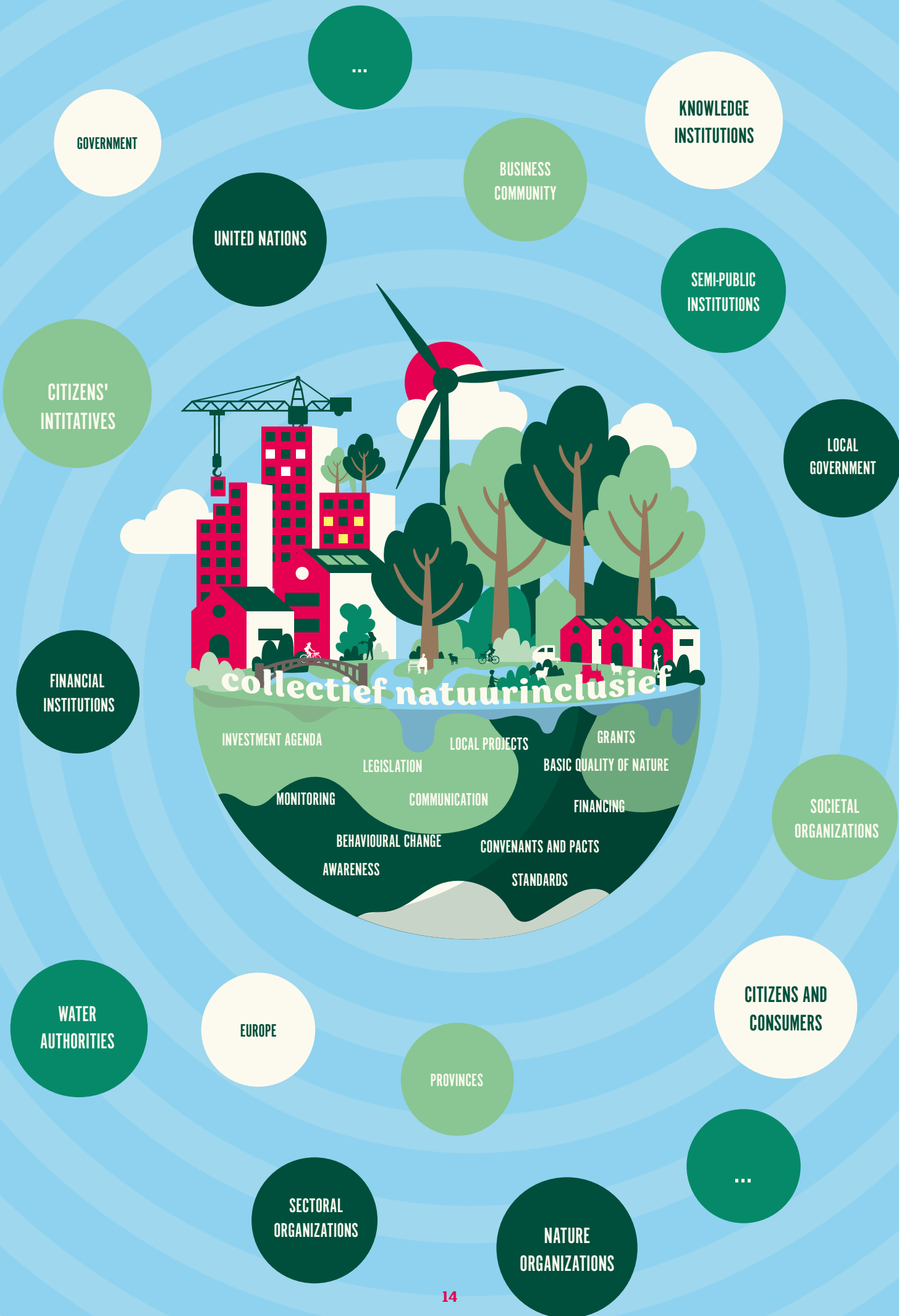
True pricing indicates the actual price of a product. It includes not only direct costs, such as material and labour costs, but also indirect costs, such as adverse effects on people and the environment.



WHO ARE WE?
THE GOAL OF THE NATURE INCLUSIVITY AGENDA 2.0
DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

CHAPTER 1. THE NATURE-INCLUSIVITY CHALLENGE THAT WE ALL FACE





We may not appreciate it every day, but nature is a source of great wealth. Nature provides us with fresh air, drinkable water, raw materials, food, health, leisure, well-being and recreation. We enjoy nature and feel better when we are surrounded by it. Nature protects us against diseases and pests, drought and extreme weather. It stores CO₂ and purifies the air we breathe. Nature keeps us psychologically balanced, stocks our refrigerator and ensures that our feet stay dry. In short, human life is intertwined with nature, and nature provides the essentials for every living thing.

But however important nature might be to us, we are still not taking good enough care of it. We take nature for granted. We are raised on the idea that we can modify, develop and exploit nature at will – and without limits. We reclaim land, manage water, produce a continuous flow of goods and seize every opportunity to increase economic production even further still. We demand too much of nature. We have polluted too much and destroyed too much. Animal and plant species are disappearing or going extinct, endangering entire ecosystems. Our soil, water and air are no longer healthy, placing our own health and well-being under pressure. If we continue on the same path, our children and grandchildren will inherit an even worse situation, and our planet will become an ever more difficult place in which to live. Nature is resilient, but it is also vulnerable. We can no longer take it for granted: the limit has been reached. It's time for change!

And the solution is in our hands, and within our reach. Because the solution is nature itself! Nature is all around us. And we can help nature – and therefore ourselves – by making sure that nature thrives. More nature, more wildlife. More plants, animals, flowers and trees. More abundance, diversity, variety and colour. More nature all around us – in the garden or on the balcony, in the city and at work. Because nature makes people healthy again, promotes cooperation between people, ensures our greater well-being, can solve many of our climate problems and have a positive effect on the economy. Our journey towards a nature-inclusive society is all about nature, green and blue, all around us. A society where people and nature live and flourish side by side, in harmony. Until it becomes completely normal for human society to be nature-inclusive. This Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 will help us get there.

WHO ARE WE?

The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 is presented by the National Nature Inclusivity Council (NiNO), as a representative of the Nature Inclusivity Collective: green pioneers from business, NGOs, knowledge institutions, government and citizens. We have identified ten key domains: construction, energy, financial sector, health, infrastructure, agriculture, education, leisure economy, water and business parks. Each domain is represented in NiNO by a domain leader, and designed and implemented by a domain coordinator. The other ten members of NiNO come from NGOs, government, knowledge institutions and young people. The twenty members of the Nature Inclusivity Council take part in the council in a personal capacity, and the council is chaired by Ambassador for Nature Inclusivity, André van der Zande. A central programme office acts as a driver, coordinator and facilitator.

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THE NATURE INCLUSIVITY COLLECTIVE

A society that is nature-inclusive is evident from its green and healthy living environment – healthy for both people and nature. We lead the way and provide the 'fertile ground' in which a nature-inclusive society can flourish. We do this by working with all parties. You can see a visualisation of the nature-inclusive movement on page 14.

THE GOAL OF THE NATURE INCLUSIVITY AGENDA 2.0

The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 sets a course towards a nature-inclusive society by 2050. The focus is on strengthening the 70% of the Netherlands' natural areas that today remains unprotected but which we live, work, travel, play and spend time in every day. From meadowlands and farmland to back gardens and urban streets; from recreational areas with no Natura 2000 protected status to business parks. By working towards a nature-inclusive society, we can contribute to achieving international goals such as those of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal, the European Biodiversity Strategy and the Nature Restoration Regulation.

At the start of 2021, the Provinces of the Netherlands, Staatsbosbeheer (the Forestry Service of the Netherlands), Natuurmonumenten (the organisation that manages many areas of natural beauty) and LandschappenNL (a charity dedicated to protecting landscapes in the Netherlands), together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), took up the challenge of creating a Nature Inclusivity Agenda to guide the transition towards a nature-inclusive society. After discussions with the

THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURE INCLUSIVITY



In order to make more rapid progress towards a nature-inclusive society, we are continuously working on our shared nature-inclusive vision of the future. What will a nature-inclusive society look like in 2050 and how will the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 contribute to that transition?

In a nature-inclusive society:

- Nature is everywhere and accessible to everyone; we also refer to this aspect as human inclusivity.
- We save, utilise and strengthen nature, instead of exploiting and damaging it.
- We include the value of nature in all our social, economic and spatial decisions. We produce and consume only what nature can support. Spatial decisions are determined by what water and soil systems are able to support.
- We utilise the positive power of nature. We rely on nature for our health, for a sustainable economy and for our wider prosperity. And nature can (help to) provide solutions to social challenges through nature-based solutions.
- As a society, we take nature into account as a matter of course. We feel closely connected to nature, and indeed part of nature.

The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 contributes to achieving this vision in the following ways:

- Working on tangible actions and visible results.
- Working on changing attitudes and behaviours.
- Contributing, spreading and strengthening positive energy, in collaboration with societal, private and public actors.
- Ensuring a good balance between top-down and bottom-up initiatives.
- Making smart connections with what is already there, starting with what is still missing and removing obstacles. This creates the right conditions to promote the nature inclusivity movement.
- Working in an integrated manner on social initiatives and other transition challenges, such as climate, water and soil, circularity and the environment.

domains, a successful Future Search and various sessions involving public and private players, the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 was created. In mid-2022, the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 was presented at the Nature Summit at the Floriade event, received praise from the Dutch Council of Ministers and was put before the House of Representatives. The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 was implemented in 2022 and 2023. An overview of the status of these actions can be found in Annex 1.

Now is the moment to expand and accelerate this movement, and to connect with and strengthen the energy in society. The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 provides an insight into what is already happening and helps us to make choices and set priorities for the years 2024-2026. Step by step, we are connecting with, involving and activating public and private parties, so that ultimately we can integrate nature into all our social, economic and planning decisions. This requires tangible actions and inspiring examples, positive incentives and administrative agreements, and especially the use of nature as a (partial) solution to the societal challenges we face, such as public health, housing, climate and agriculture.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The aim of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 is to inspire, encourage and share the sense of energy and urgency that we feel. Chapter 2 is about what we and our societal partners will be doing together in the ten key domains in the years 2024-2026, in order to make progress towards a nature-inclusive Netherlands by 2050. We have taken the first step towards an Investment Agenda, and we are working on measuring and monitoring and on joint actions, instruments and products. In Chapter 3 we discuss the work that we will be doing over the coming years in the ten key domains, and highlight a number of inspirational and iconic projects. Chapter 4 provides an insight into the more distant future: how will we continue building a nature-inclusive Netherlands together by the year 2050?

This agenda represents a unique partnership between many diverse parties with different perspectives. The agenda reflects both those differences and our shared vision for the future. We also cordially invite you, as a reader, to play an active role by incorporating the things in this agenda that touch and appeal to you into your daily life.





GROWTH PROJECTS

JOINT ACTIONS

INSPIRATION AREA: NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY

INVESTMENT AGENDA

MEASURING AND MONITORING

CHAPTER 2. WORKING TOGETHER





Nature inclusivity means transcending the boundaries between domains and sectors, the public and private realms, citizens and their environment – just as nature transcends. Crossing these boundaries often happens naturally, but sometimes we work actively to achieve this, in order to accelerate the transition to a nature-inclusive society.

GROWTH PROJECTS

There are so many inspiring examples of nature-inclusive projects that have already been realised, some in a single key domain and others spanning multiple domains. We have also come across some ambitious and inspiring initiatives that could be built on or scaled up. These initiatives bring together domains to connect and reinforce one another and showcase nature inclusivity in a way that is visible and tangible. We refer to these nascent projects as ‘growth projects’.

In this section, we describe four growth projects for your information and inspiration. We would love to hear about other growth projects, because our aim is to share and encourage. We would also like to learn about what works and what is still required in order to increase the impact of growth projects.

GEUZENPARK

A nature-inclusive environment is already taking shape in the Singelpark in Leiden. The Singelpark is over six kilometres long and winds its way along the canals of the historic city centre of Leiden, connecting some of the city’s unique locations such as the Hortus Botanicus (botanical gardens) and the Observatory. Plans for the park were drawn up and realised through a close partnership between the municipality and residents. It provides residents, visitors, animals and plants with a green space in the heart of the city. Due to the success of the project, the possibility of adding to the park with a second green ring beyond the city’s pre-war neighbourhoods is now under consideration. In the new Geuzenpark, existing sports parks, green areas and parks will be connected to form one contiguous park, making Leiden even greener – and an even more pleasant place to live. An integrated programme is underway in the heart of rural Friesland, with its green fields and waterways:

WETTER & MOAR

This growth project approaches the peat meadows of Friesland from an urban perspective. The Randstad is becoming increasingly overcrowded, and this is causing people to move out to regional population centres. In Friesland, these population centres are located around an area that consists largely of peat meadows, lakes and nature. Wetter & Moar takes a long-term, strategic approach to enhancing wider prosperity in the Frisian peat meadows over the next twenty years, with tangible steps and creative solutions to improve the quality of soil, nature and water. This will help the area to become the ‘green-and-blue heart’ of Friesland, where nature and peat meadows are combined in a way that accommodates more urban development. At the same time, the peat meadows are also changing as our climate becomes wetter and they store ever more water. This has an effect on all the area’s other functions.

Wetter & Moar therefore focuses not only on agriculture, but on serving an integrated and coherent range of other functions. Over the past two years, Wetter & Moar has been working on compiling an inventory of needs and visions in the peat meadow area. At the end of 2023, this work will lead to the formation of a network organisation that brings together innovations in the Frisian peat meadow area, making progress towards a more sustainable perspective for residents, visitors, businesses and those who manage the land. The network organisation is a new entity that is closely connected with the various localities that make up the peat meadow area.

FROM SEA TO ZWETH

This project is part of the implementation programme for the ‘Hollandse Duinen National Park’, in which the province of South Holland, the City of The Hague, Dunea, various water boards and about 60 other parties are all taking part. The project is also linked to the South Holland Provincial Rural Area Programme (PPLG) within the wider concept of Green-Blue Networks. The project focuses on improving the connection between the different areas that make up the long strip of land between The Hague and Westland. The goal is to create a connected park that can play a regionally significant role in the urban-rural transition, and in which nature and recreation areas are integrated and connected by a green route (Parkway) between Sea and Zweth. Water (in the form of the former Zweth waterway) provides the structure and connecting element in the area between the dunes and the peat meadows further inland. The project combines a large number of previous initiatives into an integrated plan with high-quality nature, water and added value for agriculture, recreation, sports and tourism.

GROENE STELLING

De Groene Stelling is an initiative by local farmers, businesses, residents and societal actors. The goal is to realise a beautiful, green, accessible, future-proof and productive landscape of almost 25,000 hectares in the heart of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Region. Thirteen parties have joined forces to try to create a new balance in the area between Purmerend, Zaanstad, Beverwijk, Velsen, Haarlem, Hoofddorp, Aalsmeer, Amstelveen and Amsterdam that connects the city and the countryside.

The ambition is to provide healthy, locally produced food for the region in an accessible and biodiverse landscape, close to the city, where there is also space for nature, recreation and climate adaptation measures. This will be done by connecting organisations, people, money and knowledge from private and social parties and by scaling up and developing promising initiatives. This bottom-up project is also helping various tiers of local government to realise a range of projects and programmes. De Groene Stelling therefore represents an open invitation to other residents, entrepreneurs, organisations and tiers of government to take part.

JOINT ACTIONS

When it comes to nature inclusivity, we want to convert thoughts into deeds. The table below shows joint actions across all the domains in the period 2024-2026. These actions not only provide an insight into how the domains are positioned and interrelate to one another, but also show how we all have a joint responsibility for making quicker progress towards a nature-inclusive society. These cross-domain actions will be developed in more detail and carried out as part of the implementation of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	DOMAINS INVOLVED
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION		
HEALTHY STREAMS AND RIVERS WITH DRINKABLE WATER	Inspired by the Drinkable Rivers movement, we want to see healthy rivers and streams with drinkable water by 2050. In the period 2024-2026, four stream valleys and rivers in the Netherlands will be chosen, including the Hunze and the Dommel. The natural water streams and water quality in these rivers will be brought up to the appropriate standard.	Health Water
ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT	Tangible steps are being taken in each domain to expand the areas that are subject to ecological management. We are looking into the obstacles to ecological management and, together with parties in the chain, developing interventions to overcome these. Examples include drawing up a covenant and launching a community of practice.	Infrastructure Agriculture Water
FUTURE DIKES	The domains are jointly committed to building on the results of the Future Dikes programme (see the icon project in the Infrastructure domain). This programme aims to roll out the creation of future-proof dikes that are covered in flowers to all relevant water authorities.	Infrastructure Water
TOP 10 NATURE-INCLUSIVE MEASURES FOR HEALTH IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT	The continued development and implementation of the existing top 10 nature-inclusive measures for health in the built environment.	Infrastructure Agriculture Water
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
BIO-BASED MATERIALS	Design a joint approach for the application of bio-based building materials in the construction sector that is in line with the nature-inclusive transition in agriculture and enhances water and soil management.	Construction Agriculture Water
GREEN-BLUE NETWORK	The key domains are working on real-life projects based on an 'opportunity map' and a 'blue-green network map' and partnerships, with the aim to create green-blue connections.	Infrastructure Agriculture Water
GREEN-BLUE ENVIRONMENTS IN VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL AREAS	Targeted and substantiated integration of the green-blue principles into various residential areas, based on research into basic human needs with respect to green and blue nature in their environment, including through the 'Nature Park City' initiative.	Business parks Construction Health Education Leisure economy Water
SPACE FOR LEISURE AND NATURE-INCLUSIVE HEALTH	By 2026, the rural areas of the Netherlands will be 10 to 20% more open and walkable, reducing the pressure on nature reserves by 10%. We will promote existing provincial and local initiatives, including Wandelnet and Gezond Natuur Wandelen.	Health Agriculture Leisure economy
POLICY, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS		
NATURE-INCLUSIVE REQUIREMENTS IN CONTRACTING	Include nature inclusivity as a standard requirement in all tenders for construction, renovation and development projects. We are organising working sessions for municipal planners, designers and buyers to familiarise them with the theme of nature-inclusive construction and the resources that already exist in this area.	Business parks Construction Energy Infrastructure Water

HEALTHY HARVESTS	Healthcare institutions spend around €2 billion per year on procuring food and drink. The key domain of Health and Agriculture will encourage them to procure this from nature-inclusive farmers and growers, in partnership with MVO-Nederland and others. By 2026, this will be the standard in 10-15% of healthcare institutions.	Health Agriculture
TACKLE RESTRICTIVE REGULATIONS AND MAKE REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS	Identify and prioritise the need for new regulations to promote nature inclusivity and identify existing restrictive regulations. We will base this on the national standards for green climate-resilient urban areas.	Business parks Construction
FINANCING		
FINANCING INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS	Initiate a partnership to realise 100,000 kilometres of innovative landscape elements in partnership with societal actors.	Business parks Construction Financial sector Agriculture Water
FINANCING NATURE-INCLUSIVE TRANSITIONS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	In partnership with the Agriculture domain and others, we want to conduct research into the development of public-private financing products and local financing to facilitate the transition towards nature-inclusive business operations and a nature-inclusive society.	Financial sector Agriculture
NATURE-INCLUSIVE FINANCING OF MORTGAGES AND CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	The domains, with relevant stakeholders, will determine how to ensure nature inclusivity in the financing of construction, renovation and development projects.	Business parks Construction Financial sector
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HEALTH AND NATURE	Strengthen funding for national parks through research into the monetary value of national parks for human health.	Financial sector Health
BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE		
DEMAND FOR NATURE-INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	Stimulate and strengthen the demand for nature-inclusive agricultural products.	Financial sector Health Agriculture Water Leisure economy
STRATEGY AND KNOWLEDGE		
SOIL STRATEGY	We develop a joint soil strategy, including a monitoring framework.	Financial sector Health Agriculture Water Leisure economy
HEALTH AND TOURISM AS A PERSPECTIVE FOR RURAL AREAS	Healthcare and tourism/agritourism can create new opportunities for the future in rural areas. We identify inspiring examples for the future for a vital rural area that could lead to exciting opportunities for 'rural entrepreneurs' – particularly farmers but also 'care farms', 'care estates' and agritourism.	Health Agriculture Leisure economy
KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME NL2120	Through this growth fund project, we will actively investigate methods of financing for nature-based solutions. The aim is to promote their application and facilitate financing, in partnership with the knowledge developed in NL2120	Financial sector Water

NATURE INCLUSIVITY IN FURTHER EDUCATION	Raising awareness of the importance of nature inclusivity in further education in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, and stimulate practical research that focuses on achieving them.	Construction Agriculture Education
PROFESSIONALS FOR THE NATURE INCLUSIVITY TRANSITION	Identifying the need for professionals who can make the transition to a nature-inclusive society a reality, and the challenges in the education system that will result from this.	Education (in partnership with all domains)
ANCHORING THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF EXPERIENCES, HEALTH, SPORTS AND RECREATION	Specify and anchor ecosystem services in terms of experiences, health, sport and recreation for nature inclusiveness.	Construction Health Leisure economy





INSPIRATION AREA: NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY

THE ADDED VALUE OF A NATURE-INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

The domain of Agriculture had included in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 the action of creating an area vision for nature-inclusive agriculture and a map that combines all the regional challenges in the field of climate, water and biodiversity, in a sample area on a regional scale. After consultations between the domains, it was decided to do this across domains in order to bring the integrated nature of these challenges more clearly into focus. By focusing on one discrete area, we can show how we can achieve smart cross-domain combinations, creative solutions and multiple land use and revenue models with a nature-inclusive perspective. One geographical area reveals how humans can coexist with nature, and how nature can help to tackle societal challenges and provide added value to society as a whole. Through this action, we will explore how a nature-inclusive and cross-domain perspective can enrich local developments, and demonstrate how we as a Nature Inclusivity Collective can learn practical lessons from an inspiration area to strengthen new and promising initiatives.

AN OPPORTUNITY SCAN IN THE NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY, LIMBURG

We began working on all domains in the Northern Maas Valley because it is an area with significant opportunities when it comes to nature inclusivity. The valley in Limburg spans eight municipalities, from Mook to Neer. The valley is characterised by a unique and naturally occurring terrace structure formed by the River Meuse and a culture of living beside the water. The area is also leading the search for solutions to a number of societal challenges through smart, multifunctional land use, such as the future of greenhouse horticulture based on new revenue models. We carried out an opportunity scan in partnership with local businesses, societal organisations and public officials. A number of opportunities were identified in one of the perspectives we worked on – the nature-inclusive ‘butterfly’ perspective. We highlight four of these in the infographic below. Further details are provided in Annex 2.

Other inspiration areas across the Netherlands may emerge in the future. We would welcome that wholeheartedly.

BUTTERFLY PERSPECTIVE: NATURE-INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

This infographic shows a number of opportunities that the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 has identified in the challenges around improved water safety in the municipalities of Venlo and Peel & Maas, by adopting a nature-inclusive, cross-domain lens.

AREAS FOR NATURE-INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE

We see opportunities to use the construction of a steep-sided dike through the area to encourage existing farmers to make the transition to nature-inclusive agriculture. The demand for nature-inclusive agricultural products can be promoted by governments, healthcare and educational institutions. In addition, land in the area can be made available for nature-inclusive agriculture. The Peelvenen Land Exchange Fund, for example, can serve as inspiration for this.



PREVENTIVE CARE AS AN IMPORTANT PILLAR FOR THE AREA

Given the ageing population and rising healthcare costs, we view preventive care as an important pillar that can add value throughout the entire Maas Valley; we can also connect the whole valley to the Blue Zone project in Maasduinen National Park. We see an opportunity to increase the demand for nature-inclusive food from care and educational institutions and to explore whether agricultural entrepreneurs can supply some care services and, together with the leisure economy domain, create green outdoor spaces.



MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL EN MAAS & MUNICIPALITY OF VENLO

Province Limburg
Municipalities Peel en Maas & Venlo
Number of municipalities 2

Population 148.604



BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS DELIVER TAILORED PROJECTS

We recognise that integrated, nature-inclusive projects require tailor-made solutions from businesses, government bodies and financiers. An inspiration area can provide a space in which to deliver tailored solutions together and to learn lessons from real-life practice. For example, we see opportunities for grid operators to make the raised electrical infrastructure that is needed due to future higher water levels more nature-inclusive, opportunities to explore integrated local financing together with financial institutions and governments, opportunities to make the Greenport, with its nine wind turbines, part of the local green-blue network, and opportunities for local educational institutions to work on learning lessons from the inspiration area.

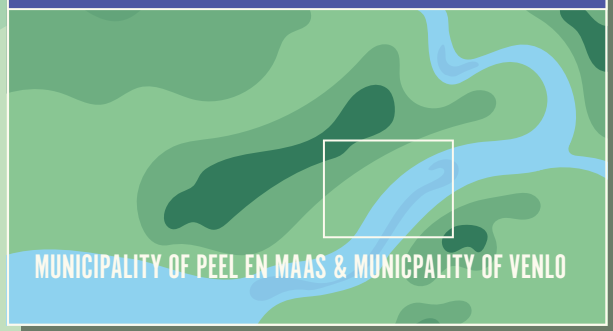


FUNDING MODELS FOR GREEN-BLUE NETWORKS

We see an opportunity to help restore biodiversity and water quality by using the construction of the dike to expand nature and create landscape elements on agricultural land in partnership with farmers. We also see scope for innovative models in which (regional) public and private parties finance the construction and management of landscape elements.



NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY



KEY TO DOMAINS

This key shows which icons represent the various domains and also provides a brief introduction to the nature-inclusivity ambitions for each of the domains.



CONSTRUCTION

We are developing and taking action to formulate a vision and strategy with the ultimate goal of creating awareness and achieving behavioural change to move towards a built environment that is nature-inclusive.



FINANCIAL SECTOR

Our ambition is for the financial sector to impose nature-inclusivity requirements whenever finance is provided or investments are made. In this way, the finance sector can contribute to the transition towards a nature-inclusive society.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Within the infrastructure sector, we discuss utilizing the potential of the enormous area (representing 8% of the total land area of the Netherlands) along the country's roads, railways, dikes, waterways and utility infrastructure to help restore biodiversity.



WATER

We argue for a rethink of our water system based on nature-based solutions as the key to the climate-robust restoration of biodiversity.



HEALTH

We focus on the 'reciprocity' of nature. A green living environment helps people to stay healthy and/or become healthier; at the same time, people can also help to restore and protect nature. Every investment in nature is also an investment in our health.



ENERGY

Based on the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0, we will use nature inclusivity to work with the energy sector to achieve the maximum positive impact on nature. We seek to minimise damage and identify opportunities to reinforce nature and wildlife populations.



AGRICULTURE

We will focus firstly on creating a practical regional knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture, and secondly on developing opportunities to connect to other domains to enable nature-inclusive agriculture to be funded and financed.



EDUCATION

We are committed to integrating and safeguarding nature inclusivity in education. We see a facilitating role for the Agenda in this. We will function as a testbed for the integration of new ideas and insights around nature-inclusive education, and encourage their incorporation into education.



LEISURE ECONOMY

We are committed to a pleasant and sustainable landscape. A landscape is formed where the connection between nature and people creates a foundation. As such, landscapes can be inclusive of both nature and people.



BUSINESS PARKS

Our goal is to make nature inclusivity a natural part of future-proof business parks.

INVESTMENT AGENDA

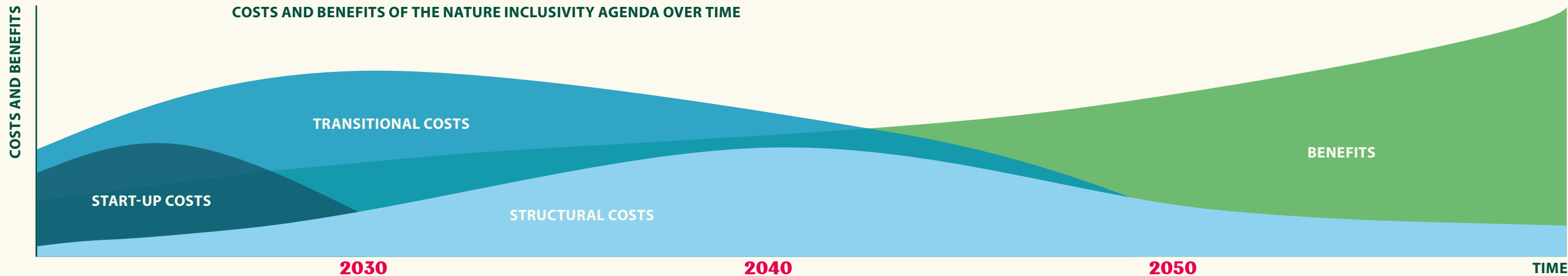
Research shows that nature yields tremendous value, including in a financial sense. However, making the Netherlands nature-inclusive also requires a willingness to invest, because the benefits cannot be achieved without an initial investment. In all domains, more attention and awareness is required in order to achieve nature-inclusive thinking, actions and investment. The investment challenge for the physical domains is very tangible. Nature inclusivity can already become a visible phenomenon there. Take the construction, operation and renovation of infrastructure or wind farms, for instance, or the greening of existing neighbourhoods. The non-physical domains relate to, for example, the relationship between clean air, healthy food, exercise and healthcare.

A draft investment agenda is being drawn up to show what investment is needed to achieve a nature-inclusive society by 2050. For each domain, as well as across domains, the agenda will indicate what investment is needed and when. This concerns both financial and non-financial interventions, such as the standardisation or redirection of existing money flows.

The investment agenda provides a financial perspective on the transition to a nature-inclusive society. It provides frameworks and guidelines for all parties – public and private, financial and non-financial – to take small steps towards investing in or financing nature-inclusive initiatives and projects. Once the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 has been adopted, more details will be added to the investment agenda, which will be one of the instruments that we can use to achieve the ambitions of the wider Agenda. In the short term, financing will be required for process costs in order to take action across various domains. As one would expect from a public-private partnership such as the Nature Inclusivity Agenda, the domains will work on this with public and private partners, drawing on existing sources of financing and exploring new possibilities. In the longer term, more details will be added to the investment agenda and it will be quantified in terms of transitional and structural costs, and in terms of the societal benefits that nature-inclusivity can produce. This will provide a better understanding of the need for newly available sources of financing and other resources, of the opportunities that these can bring, and of value creation through nature-inclusive practices in the various domains and sectors.

The ambitions and actions outlined in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 cannot be achieved without investment. A distinction is made between start-up costs for the actions required over the next few years, transitional costs, structural costs and the benefits that are ultimately realised. The visualisation provides an initial global overview over time. The outline of the Investment Agenda provides an initial indication of possible sources of coverage. A more detailed elaboration of the coverage is expected from forthcoming agreements and the reallocation of resources.

Annex 3 includes the initial insights from the Investment Agenda in the form of challenges, general guidelines and the main starting points for each domain.



THE BENEFITS OF A NATURE-INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

The sum of benefits in the form of tangible services to humans (ecosystem services such as water purification or cooling), averted costs (e.g. roadside fires and flooding) and intrinsic value (for humans and nature's right to exist).

The most important consideration is that investing in nature yields benefits. It is estimated that every euro invested will be repaid 8 to 38 times over (EU, 2021). The sooner we achieve a nature-inclusive society, the sooner those benefits will start to have an effect. For the time being, the investment required will outweigh the benefits achieved, but based on the latest knowledge, we can assume that the balance of benefits from clean air, climate adaptation, health, clean water, etc. will exceed the costs by around the year 2050.

2. Transitional costs

Transitional costs relate to the actual implementation of the changes, restoring the balance of nature inclusivity, and helping domains to shift course towards nature inclusivity, providing a path forward. The transitional costs can be high, depending on the existing negative impact on nature. However, transitional costs are generally one-off costs.

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3. Structural costs

Structural costs recur annually. In the Netherlands, we currently allocate limited resources to nature (construction, management and maintenance), even though nature is a scarce resource that represents tangible value. We can assume that the structural funding required to maintain nature will increase; however, as scale and replicability come into play, it may also reach a point where it begins to fall again.

The Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 includes numerous steps that are designed to initiate the transition to nature inclusivity in the various key domains. Although each of these domains is different, the focus in each domain is on the following components:

- Setting a direction for the market by offering a clear **perspective** for the future;
- **Show what is possible** using incentive funding, **boosting capacity and creating room for experimentation**;
- **Use these insights for structural changes**, in terms of both finances and policy.

In its 'nature first' scenario, the IBO study ('Let's get to work', 2023) shows that with an incidental investment of approximately €8 billion from the national budget, the Netherlands could take a major step towards nature inclusivity. Experience shows that the longer we wait, the more we will need to invest (consider the examples of nitrogen-based pollution, water quality, substances of concern, birdlife). It is essential to show which financial flows do not include nature-inclusive solutions or even have a negative impact on nature – beginning with flows of public money. These financial flows need to be addressed and diverted. As well as money, policy is also very important in these changes. Private money flows that go towards the destruction of nature will need to be priced accordingly. Special instruments will need to be developed for sectors that place a heavy burden on nature and have no strategy for change moving forward. For the agricultural sector, for instance, where nature-inclusivity can form part of the solution to many societal challenges, but where an array of policy instruments will also be needed to make that transition. It is crucial to encourage ground-breaking projects that can demonstrate how we can enhance the quality of nature and help businesses to make the necessary changes.

Structural resources are and will remain necessary in certain cases. The costs incurred by the domains can be mitigated using transitional resources. But structural costs will ultimately need to be covered by the (sub) domains. Scale, optimisation and focusing on what you are good at can help to ensure that structural costs remain manageable and may even begin to fall again. The IBO study ('Let's get to work', 2023) shows that taking nature inclusivity as a starting point will require structural resources of around €300-600 million annually. A strategy in which standardisation becomes more ambitious, involving the enforcement of permits and payments/co-payments on the part of polluters, could gradually reduce the amount of government expenditure required. The actual structural costs will depend very much on political choices (e.g. which combination of standards, pricing or rewards is used) and the intended end result of a nature-inclusive Netherlands, which will need to be further clarified in each domain. However, the resources required are very limited compared to the financial flows that need to be redirected: over the longer term, all government spending (€335 billion in 2022), the entire economy (€895 billion in 2022) and the entire financial system (€2,800 billion in 2022, total balance sheet of Dutch banks) will need to be made nature-inclusive. The redirection of these large financial flows will require standardisation and a new way of thinking and doing, rather than simply 'more money'.

OVERALL PROGRAMME COSTS

Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0
2024-2026

Approx. €10-15 million per year

Concerns costs for the programme office: directing and facilitating the implementation of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda. Including the promotion of public-private partnerships for the Nature Inclusivity Agenda and in the domains, communication and events, behaviour and raising awareness, measuring and monitoring, local approach

Coverage:

- €9 million per year from the Nature Programme of Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- Other coverage to be determined through agreements

COSTS OF CROSS-DOMAIN ACTIONS

Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0
2024-2026

Approx. €7.5 - €15 million

Concerns costs for implementation in the domains for:

- specific actions;
- growth projects;
- inspiration area(s)
- nature-inclusivity instruments and products
- involving and activating middle group of public and private parties.

Coverage:

- Yet to be determined e.g. through agreements

COSTS OF DOMAIN-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0
2024-2026

Approx. €30 - €40 million

The estimated process resources required vary significantly between domains:

- In general, many covered actions are already underway in the physical domains of Infrastructure, Energy and Water. Exceptions to this are Construction, which is complex due to the diversity of different owners and investors, and Leisure Economy, which does not have a strong place in policy.
- For the Agriculture domain in particular the actual transition needs to be covered in the form of both transitional costs and structural resources. Process money is needed to scale up the transition in agriculture.
- For the non-physical domains (Health, Education, Financial sector) the situation is different: a considerable investment is required in the form of process money to prioritise nature-inclusive thinking and put targeted action onto the agenda.

Coverage:

- Yet to be determined, through agreements for example



INSTRUMENTS AND PRODUCTS

GENERAL

We want to develop general instruments and tools that can remove obstacles to nature inclusivity and actively promote nature inclusivity, particularly smart combinations of instruments that can have a mutually reinforcing effect. We will develop these together, because we believe that we will have more influence on this as a collective than as separate domains. We will do this with NiNO members, domains, other social parties and the programme office. We will aim to develop and deploy these instruments together. We will elaborate on this further during the period 2024-2026.

- The gradual development, adaption or removal of legislation and regulations to encourage nature inclusivity and to ensure that it becomes 'mainstream'.
- Nature-inclusivity grants, levies and taxes to promote nature-inclusive behaviour and lower the threshold for nature-inclusive investment. This includes grants for businesses and the scaling up of chain concepts around sustainability.
- The development of standards, point systems and clarity in 'nature-inclusive positive ladders', building on existing instruments where possible.
- Make existing schemes and instruments nature-inclusive, including Green Deals and green labels. For example, we want to make reporting nature-inclusive, in line with Corporate Social Responsibility/Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive/Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.
- Make covenants, pacts and administrative agreements between the public sector, businesses and society. This can be done in individual domains and in combination between multiple domains.
- Use of instruments of communication, awareness and behavioural change to bring about bottom-up change, so that people aspire to nature inclusivity and can also realise those aspirations.
- Join forces with other transitions (e.g. climate, circular and environment) and policy themes such as Basic Quality of Nature.
- Better dissemination and utilisation of ecological knowledge.

MEASURING AND MONITORING

Using monitoring as a tool, we can follow the progress of the transition. This will enable us to make changes where necessary, both in individual domains and across domains. To provide an insight into the progress of the transition, we will use a framework that consists of five elements, namely:

1. Quick scan: the starting point for monitoring. It provides a snapshot of the state of nature inclusivity in each domain in 2023;
2. Tool analysis: provides an overview and analysis of existing tools and data and an insight into nature inclusivity in the various domains. It thus contributes to the starting point provided by the quick scan;
3. Monitoring framework setup: builds on the results of the Quick Scan and Tool Analysis. This way a monitoring framework is developed that will include evidence from indicators and data sources;
4. Implementation of monitoring framework: translation into practice. Starting in 2024, with periodic monitoring of nature inclusivity, both within domains and across domains.
5. Provide an insight into the direction and speed of the system-level change required. The goal: to achieve a nature-inclusive Netherlands.





CONSTRUCTION
ENERGY
FINANCIAL SECTOR
HEALTH
INFRASTRUCTURE
AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION
LEISURE ECONOMY
WATER
BUSINESS PARKS

CHAPTER 3. DOMAINS



CONSTRUCTION



VISION AND STRATEGY

NATURE AS A CONSTANT PRESENCE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment could not exist without nature. We need nature in our built-up areas to improve the quality of air and water, for climate adaptation, health and spaces for recreation and relaxation. To maintain nature in a **sustainable** way, it is essential to halt the current decline in biodiversity and to restore nature. We also want to use products such as bio-based building materials (made from locally produced plant-based materials), so that we not only promote local biodiversity, but also protect biodiversity elsewhere. Nature outside our built-up area, such as in Natura 2000 areas, can be supported by **high-quality green-blue links** within our built-up environment, enabling the Basic Quality of Nature (BKN) to be achieved; this will ensure supplies of food and nesting materials. Plants, animals and their environment are mutually dependent and form a coherent whole: an ecosystem. We see **strengthening the ecosystem**, and thus nature and all the benefits that nature provides, as a self-evident part of building and development, and the aim of the Construction domain is to ensure a more rapid transition towards this.

ACTIONS AND SCOPE

In the Construction domain, we will develop and take action in vision and strategy formation with the ultimate goal of raising awareness and bringing about behavioural change that will take us towards a nature-inclusive built environment. We focus on **spatial planning, design, construction and usage**. In order to make the built environment nature-inclusive, it is necessary to link the different scale levels in policy, implementation and usage: neighbourhood, plot and building.



In this domain, we focus on the construction and usage of new and existing buildings, so: homes and utilities. But it also includes the environment in which people live, and thus extends to spatial planning and the wider built environment. In short, the Construction domain has a broad span that includes buildings, infrastructure and the public and private living environments where people **live, work and spend their leisure time**.

All actions in the Construction domain will contribute to the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, in particular targets 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 21.

GENERAL AMBITIONS WITHIN 10 YEARS

We want to speed up transition in the Dutch construction sector, from early adopters (nature-inclusive construction and development projects carried out by frontrunners) to early majority (nature-inclusive construction and development projects carried out by the majority), ultimately in order to ensure that nature-inclusive construction becomes the standard and is firmly anchored in policy. The following ambitions have been identified:

1. Within 10 years, the Netherlands will be one of Europe's leaders in the field of nature-inclusive construction and development.
2. Achieve a doubling of biodiversity in the Netherlands' built-up areas.
3. Ensure that the construction sector transitions to a bio-based economy.
4. Make the integration of economic value of nature into our built environments self-evident and ensure broad support.
5. Ensure that nature becomes standard in the built environment in order to improve human health.

AMBITION AND OBJECTIVES 2024-2026

This vision gives rise to the following ambitions and objectives:

1. Buildings

- In 2024, biodiversity will be incorporated into the Environment Buildings Decree (Bbl) for the first time. In 2026, biodiversity standards will be tightened further in the Environment Buildings Decree (Bbl). The Environment and Planning Act will address the living environment around buildings. See action line 1 below.

2. Municipal level

- By 2026, every Dutch municipality will have a Municipal Nature Network (MNN) – a green urban network to which individual construction projects will be affiliated so that it is clear how they can be nature-inclusive and thus strengthen the city-wide ecosystem. By 2026, 12 municipalities in the Netherlands will be named as 'Nature Park City', allowing citizens to make their neighbourhoods nature-inclusive. Nature Park Cities will make a meaningful contribution to the goals identified. See action line 2 below.

3. National level

- A national points-based system for nature-inclusive construction will be introduced in 2025 so that every municipality can make their tenders for construction and development projects nature-inclusive. Nature can be used to improve the health of citizens through concrete guidelines. See action line 3 below.
- By 2026, all municipal environmental plans will include a section on Nature-Inclusive Construction and Development. All construction-related projects commissioned will include nature-inclusivity requirements. See action line 1 below.
- By anchoring nature inclusivity in policy, the Netherlands will gain significant experience in nature-inclusive construction and can play a leading role within Europe. See action line 4 below.

4. International level

- Dutch organisations are seen as pioneers in nature-inclusive construction and development, and Dutch tools are used internationally (focus on European Commission). See action line 4 below.

5. **The ability to measure the impact of nature-inclusive construction and development**
 - By 2025, all companies in the construction sector and real estate sector (such as banks and developers) will be able to measure their impact on biodiversity transparently for reporting and financing purposes. See action line 5 below.
6. **Launch the icon project of the future**
 - Make several large cities fully nature-inclusive within 10 years according to the 3-30-300 rule. This objective brings together all action lines.

ACTION LINES WITHIN CONSTRUCTION DOMAIN 2024-2026

In order to achieve the stated goals, the following actions will apply within the Construction domain.

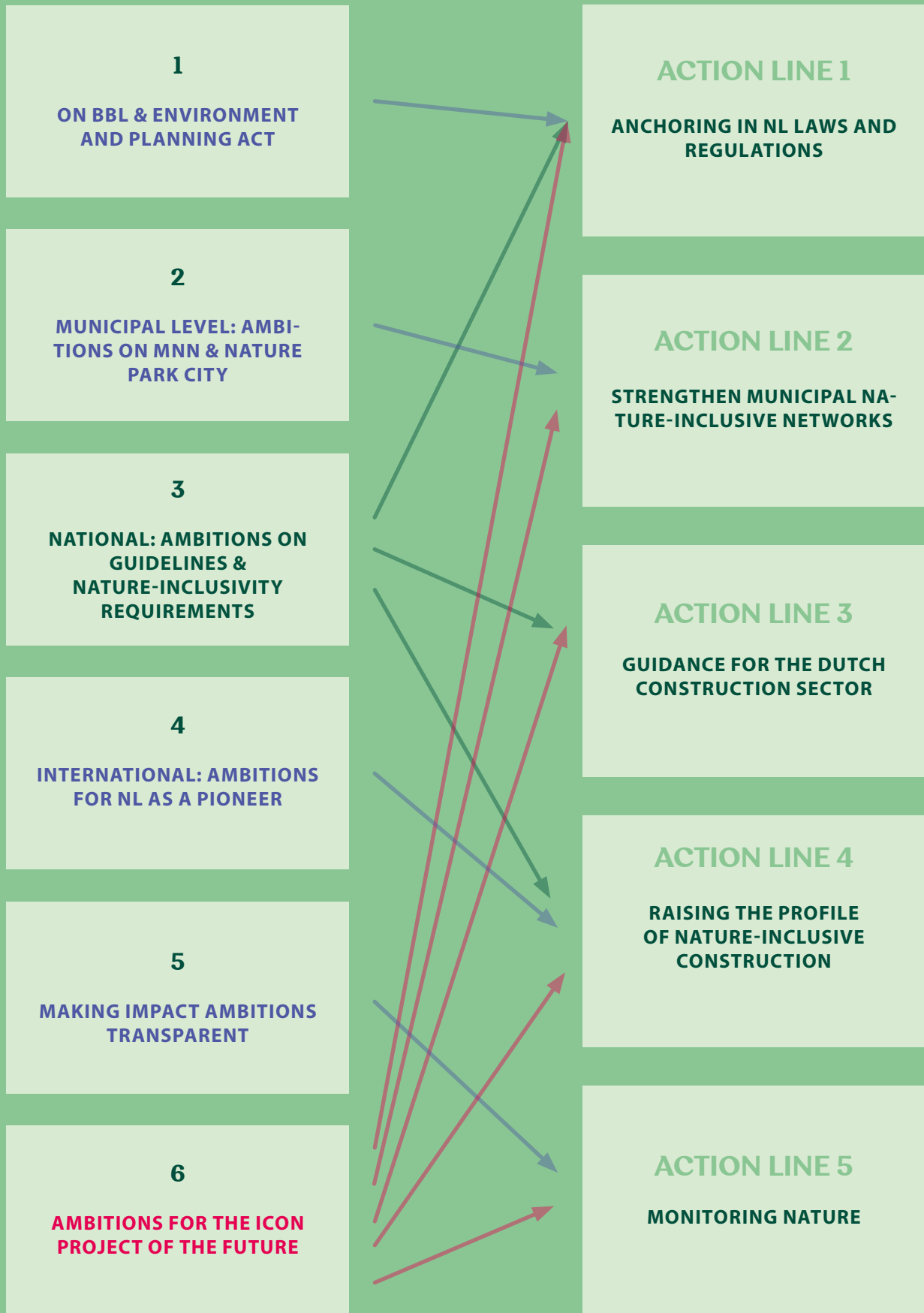
1. **Review the anchoring of nature-inclusive construction and development in Dutch legislation and regulations**, as well as prepare for existing and upcoming EU legislation (stakeholders: Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK), Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and Economic Affairs (EZK), provincial level government, municipal level government, and many others).
 - A. Review and, where possible, strengthen the coherence between different types of regulations with the aim of making them even more effective.
 - B. Record and safeguard location-specific biodiversity, and explore how to enhance it through policy, legislation and regulations.
 - C. Early implementation of the EU taxonomy, EU nature restoration and EU soil health directives in newly drafted legislation and regulations.
2. **Strengthen and clarify nature-inclusive networks within municipalities** to make better information available on existing ecosystems and the associated biodiversity (stakeholders: Municipality of Breda, Municipality of Rotterdam, Provinces of South Holland + Overijssel + Utrecht, VNG, VHG, Stadswerk, SBB, OSKA, Groene Netten, and many others).
 - A. Create an MNN (Municipal Nature Network), beginning with 10 municipalities.
 - B. Municipalities can join the 'Nature Park City' scheme (modelled on the National City Park in London). This is an internationally accepted approach for greening the city through resident participation.
3. **Provide guidelines so that all organisations in the Dutch construction sector can build, develop, renovate or use in a nature-inclusive way.** In the years to come, it will not be practical to provide every organisation with specialist ecologists with the right knowledge, so it will be important to be able to summarise as much relevant ecological knowledge as possible in the form of useful tools and methods (stakeholders: consulting agencies, knowledge developers, MVO Nederland, mortgage lenders, Ministry of Finance, and many others).
 - A. Support and implement tools and methods such as the nature-inclusive points system, nature-inclusive standards, TOP10 lists of measures (for health, biodiversity and climate adaptation/benchmark, for example), support and promote nature-inclusive insulation for existing homes.
 - B. Overview and availability of useful tools in all phases of construction/development processes.
 - C. Make Dutch mortgages and financing for construction, renovation or development projects nature-inclusive by putting together a set of tools with mortgage providers and financiers to ensure nature inclusivity.



4. **Raising the profile of nature-inclusive construction.** We want to ensure that nature-inclusive construction is more visible and more accessible to a larger target group. We will do this by raising its profile at home and abroad. The aim is to ensure that Dutch organisations are seen as pioneers and Dutch tools are adopted internationally (stakeholders: knowledge developers such as WUR, Deltares, NIOO-KNAW, Naturalis, RIVM, Universities of Applied Sciences, NL Greenlabel, VHG, and many others). This means that nature-inclusive construction will become a business model for Dutch companies, just as Dutch hydraulic engineering is at present. We will achieve this by:
 - A. International positioning and cooperation by increasing visibility within the European Commission, at five international events abroad by 2028, at international events in the Netherlands and within European municipalities.
 - B. Expand the 'Nature-inclusive construction' bubble in the Netherlands in the media through annual information campaigns, etc.

5. **Monitoring of nature.** Support and facilitate innovative monitoring strategies that specifically monitor changes in nature in and around the built environment. (stakeholders: NL Greenlabel, PBL, RIVM, Naturalis, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Delta Plan for Biodiversity Restoration, NDFF, KAN Bouwen, MVO, VNG, IPO, UvW, and many others). Evaluate the effectiveness of nature-inclusive measures in the built environment. We will achieve this by:
 - A. Supporting one broad-based, cross-domain dashboard on which the general biodiversity and robustness of ecosystems can be shown. This is about making data and knowledge available to everyone.
 - B. Implementing and promoting a uniform approach to monitoring based on: a baseline measurement and a measurement after realisation at both the area and project scale that show the impact of individual construction and development projects and enable comparison. The goal is to enable the monitoring of all construction and development projects in the same manner.
 - C. Supporting and making available innovative techniques such as the use of audio monitoring, remote sensing, citizen science, video monitoring and e-DNA so that monitoring biodiversity becomes easier and more reliable. The goal is to improve monitoring techniques.







ICON PROJECTS

The NIOO-KNAW building in Wageningen.

The building is already 12 years old, but when it was first built it was highly innovative in the field of energy, cradle-to-cradle and nature inclusivity. Due to the users of the building, extensive monitoring has been done and it can now be seen as a truly iconic project. The building includes various types of green roofs, bat-nesting areas and green outdoor space that blends into the surrounding area.

Egelshoek district in Heiloo.

Built in 1998, and far ahead of its time. According to the KAN study, this neighbourhood scores high or above national average in almost all respects.



ENERGY



VISIE EN STRATEGIE

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR A CLEANER WORLD

We are all dependent on nature. In the case of the energy sector, however, this dependence is indirect. The sector consumes raw materials and extracts natural energy such as solar radiation, wind and ambient heat. Local wind and solar parks, heating networks, renewable gases, energy storage infrastructure: these are all ways in which the energy sector can contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and the use of fossil fuels.

NEW STEP: ENHANCING NATURE

Caring for nature is an integral aspect of the energy transition. Our ecosystems provide no direct value to energy projects. So the sector is working hard on an important step: not only preventing or reducing damage to nature, but actually making a positive contribution to nature.

Based on the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0, we will use nature inclusivity to work with the energy sector to achieve the maximum positive impact on nature. We will minimise the damage and look at options for enhancing wildlife populations and nature. Will this be simple? No. But is it necessary? Absolutely.

A PUZZLE AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Every energy project has an impact on its immediate environment. We will focus on the general, national requirements and measures and work on solutions at the local level. At the local level, other domains also affect the quality of nature, so that every area needs to be approached individually. Together with our partners, we will focus on measures to enhance populations of protected plant and animal species, as well as creating habitat for generic plant and animal species.



AMBITION 2024-2026

1. Support for change has to underlie every project. This is about raising awareness and taking responsibility, which the sector generally seems to manage well. The challenge – and therefore the action required – comes in the next steps:
2. We already know a lot, but we still need more knowledge regarding the effects of the various measures, and which species (both plants and animals) are more or less important in the system as a whole.
3. The effects of our actions also need to be measured and assessed. This is necessary in order to improve and refine the measures taken – part of the learning process. Based on this, choices can be made about which measures should be made mandatory and which not. This, in turn, relates to the question of testing and enforcement.

The aim is to get started and continue making progress. Fortunately, we are already doing a lot. There are many examples of solar and wind farms – both offshore and onshore. There are initiatives to create more space for nature, to stop wind turbines when birds are migrating and to provide nesting places for animals. Many of these initiatives are designed to prevent damage (1). They are reducing the damage to nature (2) and are producing ever better results. Our main challenge now lies in both clear communications and securing funding to compensate for the damage done to nature (3). We will focus on gathering and sharing knowledge regarding the measures that have had a positive impact. We therefore emphasise the importance of knowledge and assessment, including for the schemes that are already in progress. Our ambition for the next three years is to make visible progress on enhancing nature. To make this possible, we must first tackle the basic elements of ‘support, knowledge and assessment’. In the short term, we are focusing on the energy transition subsectors that have the biggest impact in the short term and that will also have the biggest impact on spatial planning:

1. **Onshore wind**
2. **Onshore solar**
3. **Offshore wind**
4. **Energy infrastructure**

Identifying the most effective measures is an important step. Implementation requires commitment from all parties. We can all learn from each other – both the various energy subsectors and also between domains. Tendering procedures relate to the domain of Construction and Infrastructure, for example, while knowledge sharing involves the domain of Education. We can use the following successful examples as inspiration for others:

- Good results are being achieved in the development of offshore wind. One important driver here is the way in which the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy takes ecological research into account when deciding where to locate these facilities. Ecological requirements are also included in the tendering procedure for developers, and the lessons learned are included in subsequent tenders.
- An Eco Certified quality mark is being created for the development of onshore solar. This will help to identify tangible measures to enhance nature, so that those commissioning local projects (such as local government) do not have to acquire the ecological expertise themselves, but can refer to the quality mark.

- BA NIEWHOL covenant is being established for the development of onshore wind and high voltage 1 The developers of energy infrastructure, national government, the provinces and nature and environmental associations will decide jointly which measures need to be taken. All parties will agree together on these measures, representing a different approach to legislation.

INITIATIVES 2024-2026

We will increase awareness by raising the profile of nature-inclusive methods in the sector. Knowledge and inspiration are continuously being showcased through examples, motivating others to take similar measures themselves.

1. Create clarity about the most effective approach to nature-inclusive projects. To this end, we will share knowledge and experiences regarding requirements for tenders and permits, sectoral agreements and parties' own initiatives. We can learn from the approaches taken in different domains, but also between subsectors within a domain.
2. We will deepen our knowledge regarding measures to enhance nature inclusivity by carrying out additional research into the most effective measures taken in projects. We will combine this with a uniform and objectively determined yardstick with which we can assess the nature inclusivity of projects in a standardised manner.
3. We will help to improve agreements and/or regulations to ensure that measures are actually implemented. We will do this working with central, provincial and municipal government.
4. Establish and sign the NIEWHOL covenant. This sets out where agreement has been reached between the sector, central government, the provinces and nature organisations. It specifies which potential measures are required – along with the associated costs and benefits – to determine how this will be financed (onshore wind).
5. Support actions in the field of measures (see action 2) and independent measurement (see action 3), building on current actions around the Eco Certified quality mark. The aim is to finalise this and make it independent as an additional instrument with which to improve the application of nature-inclusive measures (onshore solar).
6. Support action on regulations regarding protected species that settle in the project area after the project has started, as a result of nature-inclusive measures (onshore solar). In practice, the dilemma can occur that when steps have been taken to 'invite nature' into an energy project, this can lead to additional restrictions during the operational phase of the project.
7. Support actions to strengthen nature during landfall of offshore wind. We will share knowledge in the field of ecology and measures, and support opportunities to link sectors that developers such as Tennet can take.





ICON PROJECTS

High-voltage connection at Soesterberg

'Lizard Lane' is a corridor of heathland where several landowners have worked together to promote biodiversity, fire safety and population growth.

Krammer Wind Farm

With the support of developers, NIEWHOL measures such as detection and shutdown facilities have been put in place here, in combination with a project-specific fund for nature enhancements around the project.



FINANCIAL SECTOR

VISION AND STRATEGY

MONEY FOR NATURE

The financial sector and nature are inextricably linked. Nature provides ecosystem products and services, such as timber, pollination and healthy soils. Human economic activity depends on these. And that includes the banks, pension funds, asset managers and insurers that finance these economic activities. Dutch financial institutions around the world lent billions to companies with a high or very high dependence on one or more ecosystem services (DNB/PBL, *Indebted to Nature*, 2020).

The loss of biodiversity threatens the availability of ecosystem services, thus posing a risk to the financial sector, and yet many economic activities that damage nature continue to receive finance. But there are also examples of investments and financing that make a positive contribution to nature conservation and restoration. The solution could not be clearer then: we must ensure that money is deployed in a way that benefits nature. This means adopting a nature-inclusive approach.

2050: A NATURE-INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Our first ambition is that by 2050 the Dutch financial sector will be acting in a nature-inclusive manner. Because a nature-inclusive financial sector is essential to achieving a nature-inclusive society by 2050. Ever more financial institutions are aware that every project they finance or invest in is ultimately dependent on nature, biodiversity and ecosystem services. The financial sector will now have to incorporate that knowledge into its models, pricing, analysis, reporting and decision-making. Only then can it guarantee the investment and financing that are required to move towards a nature-inclusive society, and prevent activities that damage or undermine nature.

FINANCE AND THE TRANSITION TO NATURE INCLUSIVITY

By 'financial sector' we mean banks, pension funds, asset managers, insurers and others. Depending on the nature of their business models, these actors can play a role in the transition to nature inclusivity. For example, some asset managers already operate funds that aim to promote the restoration of biodiversity, while some banks and insurers offer interest discounts on loans if



they will lead to the restoration of nature. It is important for financial institutions that there is a healthy business case for taking this approach.

Here, the role of government in redistributing costs and benefits is essential in order to design viable business models. Structural cooperation between government and the business community could, for example, take the form of public-private partnerships (PPP), in which the various financial institutions can fulfil their specific, complementary roles.





FUNDING AND FINANCE FOR NATURE INCLUSIVITY

The difference between funding and finance is also important in the transition towards a nature-inclusive society. Funding is about who ultimately pays. Finance is about how they obtain the money to do this.

Let's look at financing in the construction sector, for instance. When a house is built, the developer might choose to include measures to improve the nature inclusivity of that house. If we assume that this is not mandated by regulations, the first thing we should look at is funding. If the buyer of the house is willing to pay extra for the nature-inclusive measures, then the funding is taken care of. The buyer will then probably need to borrow money to pay for the measures – by taking out a nature-inclusive mortgage, for example. So ultimately, this is how the measures will be financed.

The type of financing that is required varies according to the situation, therefore. If a local authority decides that it will provide funding for nature inclusivity, it can do so in the form of a grant. If builders are forced to build nature-inclusive homes by new regulations, they can incorporate this into their business case. The government can then step in to provide incentives if these measures prove unaffordable, or the market can find its own solution.

Experience shows that transitions such as the transition towards nature inclusivity often involve the question of who is going to pay. In the Financial Sector domain, we also wish to look at what kind of challenge we face – a funding challenge or a financing challenge? And how can the various actors play their role in addressing this?

In taking the next steps, the Financial Sector domain will focus on the following action lines:

ACTION LINE 1 - Provide finance and investment services within specified parameters

The ambition of the Financial Sector domain is that the financial sector will work towards nature inclusivity on its own initiative. This can be done in two ways:

- Evaluate and reduce the impact of existing investments and finance on nature and biodiversity, and the damage being done to nature. This is already being done in various ways and by various coalitions, such as the Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the Finance for Biodiversity pledge and the Partnership for Biodiversity Accounting Professionals (PBAF). The introduction of new EU legislation such as the green taxonomy and the CSRD are also creating opportunities for projects and companies to evaluate and reduce their impact on nature.
- By setting nature-inclusivity requirements for every new loan or investment. In this way, the finance sector can contribute to the transition towards a nature-inclusive society. Examples include reduced-interest loans for projects that involve achieving sustainability objectives, reduced rents for sustainable business development or reduced mortgage interest if the money is used to make a home greener. Public-private partnership is important here, as is integrating the risks of nature degradation and recognising the benefits of nature-inclusive solutions in financial models. We see an active role for this domain in this regard, because not much is known about what nature-inclusive financing and investment are exactly.

ACTION LINE 2 - 2 - The government as a redistributor of financial flows

In the move towards a nature-inclusive financial sector, the government's task will be to support the sector with a clear long-term vision and ensure a level playing field. This vision must include clear goals, (legal) frameworks (such as soil and water management) and timelines, such as a National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP). The use of coordinated flows of public finance – in the form of taxes, levies and grants, for instance – is also essential in order to ensure that nature-inclusive

business models or projects can be financed. The Financial Sector domain will work for a commitment from the financial sector to stick to a clear path set out in an NPSAP, just as it did for the climate agreement (to which the entire Dutch financial sector committed itself in 2019).

ACTION LINE 3 - Innovative revenue models for nature-inclusive solutions

As well as the finance sector's role in assessing and determining different types of investment and risk-return profile, and the source and form of financing, the sector can also play an active role in coming up with innovative new revenue models and experimenting with new forms of financing. We see this role for ourselves in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda: reflecting on funding and financing options in various domains and building a bridge with financial institutions.

INITIATIVES 2024-2026

Within these action lines, for the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 we will focus on the actions below. These are divided into initiatives that can be carried out by our domain independently, and initiatives on which we will work with other domains.

- **ACTION 1: Guide to nature-inclusive financing and investing,** providing examples and tools. A guide to nature-inclusive financing and investing is being created in partnership with the other domains. The aim is to develop criteria for nature-inclusive investing. The guide will serve as a practical document for the financial sector. Examples such as Prins Hendrikzanddijk on Texel are included in the document as inspiration for financial institutions. We then plan to bring the guide to the attention of the umbrella organisations in the financial sector and individual institutions.
- **ACTION 2: Deepening of financial public-private partnership (PPP) structures for nature-inclusive financing and investing**
Based on the lessons learned in creating the guide, an in-depth study into the possibilities around PPP constructions will be carried out. Experiences in the area of nature-inclusive financing from around the world will also be taken into account. The aim of this action is to explore existing and possible new PPP constructions and to identify how they can contribute to the transition to a more nature-inclusive Netherlands.
- **ACTION 3: The government as a redistributor of financial flows**
In-depth research into the role of the government as a redistributor of public financial flows (including through taxes, levies and grants) to enable the financing of nature-inclusive business models. This action builds on the public flows explored in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 (see Annex 1)
- **ACTION 4: The Financial Sector domain wants to contribute to the creation of a National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the Netherlands and will work to secure a commitment from the financial sector for this.**
- **ACTION 5: Nature inclusivity finance helpline for all domains in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda.** We want to make sure that domains that encounter finance bottlenecks have somewhere to turn for advice and, where possible, to receive support for developing a sound business case.





ICON PROJECTS

Prins Hendrikzanddijk on Texel

The Prins Hendrikzanddijk is helping to restore and strengthen nature and natural value in the Wadden Sea. This has been achieved through close collaboration with project partners, and has led to an integrated, sustainable solution with broad support and financing (including grants).

Open soil index

An open soil index provides a better picture of changes in soil condition and soil quality in the Netherlands. This can encourage farmers to improve the condition of their soil through, for example, reduced rents.

Aardpeer

Aardpeer was launched at the beginning of 2021 when the first 'Together for Soil' bond was issued. Public and private investments can be made in the bonds. The capital raised can be used by arable farmers or livestock farmers to make the transition to a sustainable business model.



HEALTH



VISION AND STRATEGY

NATURE AND HUMANS: A RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP

The health of the earth and the health of humans are closely intertwined. But in recent decades this fundamental connection between people and nature has too often been neglected. That is very regrettable. Even in the healthcare sector, nature is seldom seen as a source of health in our country.

Reciprocity will be the key for the future health sector. Nature enhances our health and well-being. And so when we, as humans, add to the vitality of nature, we also support our own well-being. This completes the circle, and our goal for the future is to achieve this once again. However, the reverse is also true: every time we damage nature, we damage our own health. We must reflect on this. This is why the credo of the health sector of the future has to be: a healthy person in a healthy environment. So we are working on a new ecosystem and a healthy environment – for people and nature. And we will convert the crises that we are facing in health, climate and biodiversity into a healthy, green-blue future for the generations that follow us.

INVESTING FOR RECOVERY, HEALING AND A GREEN-BLUE FUTURE

Every investment in nature is also an investment in our health and well-being. The healing effect of a green-blue landscape is an additional reason for actively investing in the restoration (and healing) of nature itself.

‘We need nature to take care of us, just as much as we need to take care of nature’

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, directeur WHO

The domain of Health recognises that the health of the earth and humans are on the same spectrum. This is why it supports moving away from crises in health, climate and biodiversity and towards a healthy, green-blue future.



LONG-TERM VISION: A NEW PARADIGM FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE

An end to crises in health, biodiversity and climate and towards a healthy, green-blue future: this is the long-term vision of the Health domain. The health of nature and humans is fragile. It is only by recognising this that we can respond to vulnerabilities and grow stronger together. We will usher in a new paradigm that recognises that humans and nature are interconnected.

Nature plays a vital role in our health, and this is what we focus on. We will build on existing enthusiasm and inspirational examples such as Green Mental Health Services, Green Hospitals and green, healthy neighbourhoods in ever more locations. We will work with iconic projects and green pioneers to create a green snowball effect. We will create ownership. Our approach is co-creation and a ‘hunger for more’. Finally, we will also address prevention by making green, healthy living environments more attainable and, perhaps most importantly, inspiring everybody to contribute and become aware of their connection with nature. We humans cannot survive without nature, so let’s take good care of it – together and for each other.

AMBITIONS FOR 2024-2026

The domain of Health will specifically seek to promote the nature-inclusive health movement within the healthcare sector (in the broadest sense) and the well-being sector in the other domains. We will do this by identifying and exploring new opportunities and possibilities. We will also aim to identify and remove barriers where possible, develop a joint approach and, above all, implement nature-inclusive health actions that can inspire and connect people.

By 2026, nature-inclusive health will have become a more commonplace and integrated element in decision-making and in practice in the domains of agriculture, construction, the leisure economy, water, financial sector and education. In each of these domains, concrete actions and pilots have been developed and are underway. Inspiration will be shared through effective new networks and existing institutions, and by civil society. The domain of Health will seek to promote the nature-inclusive health movement in the healthcare sector (in the broadest sense) and the well-being sector in the other domains, by identifying opportunities and possibilities, identifying barriers and obstacles and removing these wherever possible, by taking a joint approach to creating and, most of all, by implementing nature-inclusive health actions that inspire and connect. The domain of Health has three ambitions:

1. Bringing green spaces closer

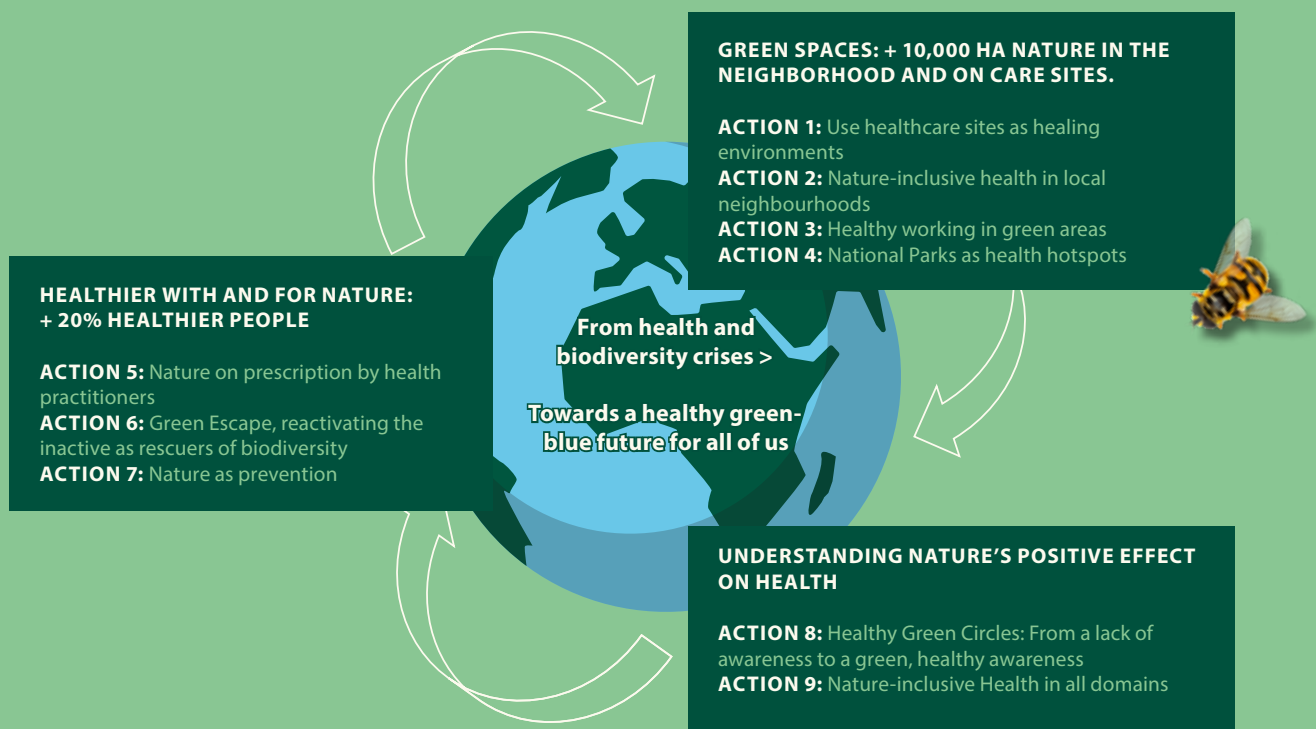
The greener we make the environment that we live in, and the more often we come into contact with green space and nature, the healthier we are – both mentally and physically. The logical conclusion is that we need more nature closer to our homes, schools and workplaces.

2. Positive health – with and for nature

We can improve our health by improving our connection with nature and working on behalf of nature. Because every investment in nature is also an investment in our own health.

3. Cross-domain opportunities for a green and healthy environment

We will inspire and encourage other domains to include health as a priority. We will contribute ideas and advice, create connections and come up with a fun healthy green challenge for all employees across all domains. We will also contribute to initiatives that offer new prospects for rural areas, where sectors such as agriculture, health and the leisure economy are all working in the same direction.



INITIATIVES 2024-2026

A CREATING HEALTHY GREEN SPACES

ACTION 1. Utilise healthcare sites as healing environments

Healthcare institutions are often located in extensive grounds. We will encourage pioneers in the field of nature inclusivity to make 10% of their sites nature-inclusive by 2026. The emphasis will be on mental health services, care for people with disabilities, elderly care and hospitals. The vitality of clients in these areas (including those on waiting lists), as well as of staff, local residents and nature itself, will increase significantly. The location and (potential) added value of these areas for the Nature Network will be known and recognised. The public sector, healthcare institutions and health insurers will promote treatments, daytime activities and supervision in green spaces.

How will we do this? By connecting pioneers through inspiration and co-creation. Pioneers will be encouraged to scale up further and conduct scientific research. Barriers and obstacles, including financing, will be identified and solutions explored. Green spaces will be identified, partly based on a study by the Land Registry.

ACTION 2. Nature-inclusive health in local neighbourhoods

There are ever more examples of nature-inclusive healthy neighbourhoods. These include examples in municipalities that operate relatively independently of each other. Local actors, such as municipal government, health organisations, civil society and residents' initiatives, are actively cooperating to help integrate nature-inclusive health at the local level and to enhance nature and biodiversity. Participation and co-creation are the basic starting points.

What are we going to do? A national inspiration network for Nature-inclusive Health in the neighbourhood will be established by 2026 with the aim of bringing together and accelerating successful pilot schemes, initiatives and actors. Maximise the challenges and opportunities of the Environment and Planning Act and the potential of programmes such as GALA and SPUK. Coordinate with existing initiatives, such as the City Deal for Healthy and Happy Cities and the Green in and around the City and Healthy Neighbourhoods working groups.

ACTION 3. Healthy working in green areas

We will create healthy, inspiring, nature-inclusive working environments in industrial estates, office complexes and healthcare institutions, where employees can enjoy their work and feel more vital.

What are we going to do? Step 1 is inspiration. By 2026, there will be 100 inspiring examples of healthy, green working landscapes where nature is brought back into the working environment. Step 2 means action: Many companies and organisations will participate in the Outdoor Office Day in 2026.

ACTION 4. National Parks as national health hotspots

National Parks are among the largest green health hotspots in the Netherlands. But few people are aware of this. This has to change.

What are we going to do? By 2026, a number of pilots involving National Parks and the healthcare sector will have been developed and launched. The results and experiences will be used to integrate programmes into the policy and financing of the central government and other authorities, as well as health insurers. This will strengthen the implementation of the working plans for National Parks. All of this work will be supported by studies into the public health benefits of national parks and nature reserves, jointly carried out by the domain of Health and the domain of Finance.

B. POSITIVE AND MORE HEALTHY WITH NATURE

ACTION 5. Nature on prescription

Enabling everybody to rediscover nature as a source of health will improve our collective health and reduce the pressure on healthcare services.

What are we going to do? We will join the network of existing referrers. Through pilot schemes, we

will enable both GPs and physiotherapists to actively refer patients to nature reserves and nature activities in their area. By 2026, in every province there will be at least 25 GP and physiotherapy practices that apply 'nature on prescription'. Together with other local actors, they will contribute to healthier people and healthier local nature. Health insurers and local actors, such as municipalities, civil society and nature organisations, will all make an active contribution to this shift.

ACTION 6. Green Escape 'For 1 million people now on the sidelines – the return to nature and health is in their own hands'.

One million people in the Netherlands struggle with health issues due to short-term or long-term incapacitation. This target group especially could stand to benefit from nature. We would like to invite them to help tackle the biodiversity crises by actively involving them in restoring nature in their own neighbourhoods and working on their own recovery.

What are we going to do? We will begin with a study into the best approach to implementation, and talk to all the actors that we would like to see participating or which are already involving people in green management and community integration.

Research will be conducted into the extent to which compliance with the purchasing condition SROI (Social Return of Investment) creates opportunities to launch pilots involving this target group and which natural allies/partners can help to carry out these pilots. We will invite company doctors to actively prescribe nature (see 'nature on prescription'). By 2026, the first 10,000 people will be taking part in pilots and they will have created 10m² of green space per person. The effects of these pilots will be investigated.

ACTION 7. Nature as prevention

Nature can help to make the switch to preventive healthcare. The Netherlands can learn from a number of other countries in this area.

What are we going to do? We will investigate how and to what extent nature and green spaces can play a role in preventive healthcare. We will do this in partnership with health insurers, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Dutch Healthcare Authority. We will learn from examples in Germany, but also in the Netherlands, including Ameland. Obstacles that stand in the way of utilising nature in healthcare will be removed. Opportunities in rural areas, such as 'care farms', will be explored.

C. AWARENESS OF THE EFFECT OF NATURE ON POSITIVE HEALTH

ACTION 8. From lack of awareness to green, healthy awareness

Healthy Green Circles – in partnership with 'Everything is Health' and the IVN and with support from the Province of South Holland – is working on an overview of the benefits and goals, the actors involved and examples of green space for health in five different settings, such as schools, workplaces and care settings. The aim is to encourage all provinces to actively address these settings in the coming years.

Effective initiatives and connections in the field of nature and health are also invited to participate in an international inspiration network. The Netherlands will play an active role, including through webinars and a launch conference.



ICON PROJECTS

Healing healthcare sites: Green mental health services

The 'Green mental health services' initiative, initiated by Nature For Health and IVN Nature Education, is working with 18 mental healthcare institutions from all over the Netherlands to create a green movement in mental health services. Participants include the Dutch GGZ (Mental Health Services), De Buitenpsychologen (Outdoor Psychologists), health insurer CZ and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. The 18 mental health institutions – the Green Pioneers – together have over 30,000 employees, treat over 300,000 clients and manage the equivalent of more than one and a half national park in land between them.

Nature-inclusive health in Dordrecht

Dordrecht is growing, and more residents means more homes. Dordrecht aspires to be a green and healthy city for its residents, and is working to become an even better place to live. We are making Dordrecht greener and bluer by incorporating nature and water into the city. And we are creating connections between that green and blue. This is how we are working to improve the well-being of residents in Dordrecht. And creating a city that can withstand more extreme weather, such as heavy rain or periods of drought. The city park will become a place that people will want to visit frequently. It will combine nature, biodiversity, recreation, sport and water collection, and be a safe place to play, walk, exercise, cycle and meet. It will be easy to access the park from all adjacent neighbourhoods, with no perimeter fence. Dordrecht City Park will connect the city with green space, from the city centre to the Biesbosch national park.

Raising awareness of green health

Healthy Green Circles – in partnership with 'Everything is Health' and the IVN and with support from the Province of South Holland – is working on an overview of the benefits and goals, the actors involved and examples of green space for health in five different settings, such as schools, workplaces and care settings.



INFRA- STRUCTURE

An aerial photograph showing a grassy embankment with a herd of sheep grazing. The embankment is bordered by a road with a concrete curb and a drainage ditch. The text 'INFRA-STRUCTURE' is overlaid in large white letters at the top.

VISION AND STRATEGY

2040: INFRASTRUCTURE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Within the infrastructure sector, we will discuss how to utilise the potential of the enormous area of land along the country's roads, railways, dikes, waterways and utility infrastructure, which represents some 8% of the total land area of the Netherlands. In 2040, the Netherlands will be connected by a nature network that runs along, over and through infrastructure all across the country, and we will utilise this potential through nature-inclusive design and ecological management practices. It will no longer just be humans that are connected by infrastructure, but nature too, through green and blue interconnections, countless migration routes, ecoducts, ecological hotspots, wildflower meadows, wildlife crossing points, stepping stones and shelters. Infrastructure will serve all species, connecting all forms of life in our country, and becoming a key element in our nature-inclusive society.

NOW - 2030: THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

TRANSITION

Between now and 2030, we will pave the way towards the restoration of nature, following the Montreal Global Diversity Framework and the EU's Green Deal. This means that we will do everything required for the transition to a nature-inclusive society. Thinking within the infrastructure sector will undergo a further shift – instead of aiming to limit the damage, we will think in terms of enhancing nature. To do this, it will be important to showcase the broader value of nature inclusivity. By broadening the scope to include aspects of safety, operations, climate adaptation, health and other interests, we will create more momentum, and more win-win situations will arise.

UTILISING, CONNECTING AND STRENGTHENING SPACE

Over the years to come, the domain of Infrastructure will take major steps in utilising space, creating connections and strengthening local circumstances. Nature-inclusive design, construction and management will gradually become the standard in the infrastructure sector, and where possible we will introduce additional ecological benefits. This means that nature inclusivity will be given a role in all processes relating to all infrastructure. We will lay the foundation for the restoration of nature by making every effort to manage all existing infrastructure in an ecologically sound manner.



This will contribute to the integration of the restoration of biodiversity, functionality and experience. It will also contribute to a healthy and climate-resistant soil. Furthermore, wherever new infrastructure is developed or large-scale replacement or renovation takes place, nature-inclusive working will be incorporated into the planning, design and construction phase.

RESOLVING CONFLICTS CREATING SPACE FOR SOLUTIONS

When conflicts arise on the road to restoring nature and deciding how land should be used, we will look for innovative and practical solutions. We will work on creating space for solutions until 2030. We will do this by removing any barriers arising from legislation and regulations. Where relevant, we will arrange funding and establish best practices, standards and certifications for behavioural change, tendering and design loops. Work will also be done to train professionals working at the intersection of civil engineering and ecology.

Starting in 2030, all infrastructure projects will add demonstrably more biodiversity compared to the current situation. A great deal of infrastructure is also being designed to be green and managed ecologically. Infrastructure is also increasingly connecting nature in urban areas with the countryside and Natura 2000 areas. The basic quality of nature or higher quality will be achieved in all locations around infrastructure. This will help us make real progress in the transition towards a nature-inclusive society, and from 2030 onwards infrastructure will make a positive contribution to biodiversity.

INITIATIVES 2024-2026

ACTION 1

Ensure that all organisations in the domain of Infrastructure are moving in the same direction. Include biodiversity in the vision and policy of organisations.

MEASURABILITY

- Number of parties that commit to the objectives of the domain of Infrastructure in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0.
- Number of infrastructure operators who incorporate the ambition of the Montreal Global Diversity Framework into their vision.
- Number of organisations that adopt the Natuurladder and Kleurkeur standards.

ACTIONS

- Identify shared value: convert the Montreal Global Diversity Framework into ambitions for the infrastructure sector in the biodiversity framework. We will work on an attractive vision for the future of nature-inclusive infrastructure based on other examples such as Perspectief 2120 and Natuurrijk Nederland.
- Define KPIs that can also be reported on in accordance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).
- Select desired standards/certifications for organisations and for ecological management (e.g. the Natuurladder and Kleurkeur standards). 'Kleurkeur' relates to mowing practices for roadside verges and waterways, and is a form of certification for best practice. The Natuurladder is a method for putting climate adaptation, biodiversity and a healthy environment permanently on the agenda in (infrastructure) projects.
- Design a framework for Groene Netten (Green Networks) based on the example of the monitoring framework used by the Water Authorities, focusing on policy, design and effect indicators.

ACTION 2

Develop the space for nature-inclusive infrastructure

MEASURABILITY

- Lead times of nature-inclusive projects.
- Delta between nature-inclusive ambitions and achieved results.

ACTIONS

- Review the rules for a nature-inclusive society: clarifying, simplifying or changing legislation and regulations that stand in the way of nature-inclusive solutions. Prepare for EU nature legislation.
- Review the additional cost of ecological management practices and the benefits gained in the long term.
- Develop and test out a new financing model that makes investing in nature-inclusive solutions more attractive, for example by including nature-inclusive infrastructure as an objective in green bonds and other means of raising finance for infrastructure operators.
- Set up a helpdesk for ecologically applicable knowledge and share guidelines and standards for best practice. Hold an annual meeting where players can inspire and learn from each other, and evaluate progress.
- Standardise nature-inclusive design and infrastructure measures as much as possible, while leaving scope to adapt to local biodiversity. It will also be important to continue working on the opportunities map and databases (biodiversity planner), so that these tools can be used in planning and design processes.
- Continue developing standards such as the Natuurladder (Nature Ladder) and Kleurkeur and guidelines for incorporating biodiversity into tenders. Train organisations in this.
- Continue developing training courses aimed at ecologists light or green civil engineering.

ACTION 3**Nature-inclusive construction and operation for new infrastructure, conversions, renovations and design assignments as well as for existing infrastructure****MEASURABILITY**

- % of area that is managed according to ecological principles and number of organisations that do so as standard based on standards such as Kleurkeur.
- Number of projects where standards such as Natuurladder and Kleurkeur are applied. Number of projects with objectives that relate to nature.
- % of funding spent on nature-inclusive projects.
- % of projects delivered in a nature-inclusive manner.

ACTIONS

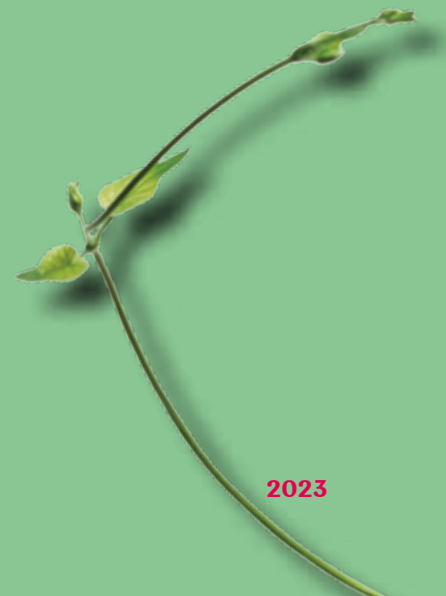
- Select priority areas for ecological management and make collective agreements with the organisations involved.
- Expand the number of parties that apply ecological management, for example by drawing up an agreement for municipalities, provinces, water authorities, contractors and infrastructure operators.
- Ensure that standards such as Natuurladder, Kleurkeur and tender guidelines are applied as a matter of routine in tenders.
- Gain knowledge and experience about the interaction between infrastructure and nature, and develop nature-based solutions in the context of fire safety, traffic safety, climate adaptation, and so on. Highlight model projects at an annual event, possibly developing them further into standards and make information available through the helpdesk.
- Train professionals working at the intersection of civil engineering and ecology.
- Put monitoring in place for the total area (for example in % or in number of hectares) that is under ecological management.

STAKEHOLDERS

Network operators, Gasunie, Rijkswaterstaat, Prorail, KPN (Groene Netten), MVO Nederland, Delta Plan Biodiversity Recovery, water authorities, municipalities, provinces, central government, construction companies, green managers, engineering firms, science, training, knowledge institutes, Naturalis, the Vlinderstichting (Butterfly Foundation) and many other nature organisations

POINT FOR ATTENTION: BIODIVERSITY IN THE CHAIN

Various actors have a significant impact on biodiversity outside the Netherlands. A total of eight infrastructure operators (Stedin, Alliander, KPN, Port of Rotterdam, Evides, Enexis, Rijkswaterstaat (RWS) and Prorail) are conducting studies into the negative impact on biodiversity in their supply chains. The initial results show that the impact of the chain, which often extends to other countries, is particularly significant due to mining activities and the contribution to climate change, and that this aspect should be taken into account. This applies to several domains and is certainly a point that requires attention within the domain of Infrastructure.





ICON PROJECTS

FutureDikes

consortium of actors, at the request of the Rivierenland Water Authority. The project has shown that species-rich grass coverings on dikes provide sufficient resistance to erosion, as well as being sustainable and cost-effective. Not only does this strengthen the dikes, but it also helps restore biodiversity. The project is therefore making an important contribution to the biodiversity and sustainability objectives of the Flood Protection Programme and water authorities for all dikes in the Netherlands. Species-rich dikes connect ecological resources and contribute to the restoration of biodiversity.

Zwaluwenberg ecoduct

Zwaluwenberg ecoduct near Hilversum (RWS + Prorail). The Province of North Holland will soon complete a seven-year study into the use and effectiveness of this wildlife crossing point.

Lizard Lane

(including Tennet, Vitens, Utrechts Landschap, Ministry of Defence, municipality of Soest, province of Utrecht). An example of a multi-stakeholder partnership with mutual benefit for all parties as well as local species, and which has led to the ecological integration of infrastructure.

Food forest, the Green Oasis

The Green Oasis is located at the northwestern tip of the Geestmerambacht Recreation Area, north of Kanaaldijk 1 in Koedijk, where Kanaaldijk intersects with the N504. In the past, this area of land was used as a natural verge. Because the plot is intersected by the N504, the area is divided into northern and southern sections. A 'food forest' with a toad pond will be created in the northern section, while the southern section will contain a fruit tree orchard with an ecological waterside zone. Visitors to the area can experience nature in a unique way and (literally) reap the benefits in a recreational area that is open and accessible to all.



AGRICULTURE



VISION AND STRATEGY

2050: AGRICULTURE AND NATURE STRENGTHENING ONE ANOTHER

With at least 10% in green-blue networking, the Dutch countryside – over half of which consists of agricultural land – will be greener than ever in 2050. Hedgerows, trees, ponds, streams, ditches with nature-friendly banks and other landscape elements bordering wildflower meadows, fields of fertile, healthy soil and nature-inclusive landscaped farmland will be everywhere. Crops, livestock and products will be healthy, strong and resilient. New crops will also be farmed, and new cultivation techniques, production methods, innovations and initiatives will enable farmers to run healthy and financially resilient businesses in harmony with nature. If we start working on nature-inclusive agriculture today, including bio-based agriculture and the use of field robots for weeding in precision agriculture, by 2050 we will be consuming much less energy and using fewer (chemical) pesticides. The production of nature-inclusive animal feed will also improve the health of farm animals. Nature is the future.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE OF THE FUTURE

The financial challenges that farmers face and the ecological challenges that we all face demonstrate the limits of our existing system of agriculture. We must now look for a new way forwards together. Many different types of farms are already working on this. The goal is to enable farmers to continue to make a good living for many generations to come. By 2050, the environment in which farmers operate will be significantly more biodiverse and resilient. The quality of Dutch air and water will be outstanding, and the fertility and condition of the soil will be optimal. All of this will add to the value of our countryside and make a significant contribution to our wider prosperity as a country.

FOOD FOR EVERYBODY

By 2050, healthy, nature-inclusive food will be accessible to everyone – regardless of their income. The agriculture and horticulture sectors will help to make this radical transition by applying nature-inclusive principles, which will extend to every segment of agriculture and horticulture. Transition pathways that reflect real-life practice will be developed jointly, on the basis of freedom of choice and free enterprise.



REAPPRAISING THE VALUE OF NATURE

In addition to farmers, several other stakeholders in and around the agriculture sector have a useful role to play in the transition to a nature-inclusive agriculture sector. Veterinarians, contractors, supply chain partners, suppliers, farm advisors, the education system and wider society, including the other domains, have all contributed to the wider prosperity and appreciation of our nature-inclusive country through a process of intensive cooperation. By operating within the boundaries of what the natural environment is able to support, companies have rediscovered and embraced the importance and strength of nature. The domain of Agriculture, together with its wider partners, is working to manage soil and water and helping to restore and conserve biodiversity, as set out in the various action programmes.

KNOWLEDGE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A DRIVER

In order to make Dutch agriculture nature-inclusive, practical knowledge, and all the associated benefits for farmers, is essential. This practical knowledge is being developed through practice-oriented platforms and networks in partnership with knowledge institutions, the public sector and supply chain partners, and is being offered to all agricultural entrepreneurs in an accessible and practical way. Various farm advisors are applying nature-inclusive principles and actions, and helping farmers to make their operations nature-inclusive. At the same time, clients are increasingly demanding nature-inclusive services and products.

These products will be easy to recognise both in wholesale and on supermarket shelves. The entire supply chain will reap the benefit of this. Research funds that seek to improve nature-inclusive agriculture will be made available. All of this can be seen as a sustainable business model for the future, which allows space for entrepreneurship and creativity.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN SETTING AN EXAMPLE

The government will play an important role in the transition towards nature-inclusive agriculture. At the national, provincial and local levels it will use tendering and procurement policy to stimulate the demand for nature-inclusive (agricultural) products, ensure that legislation and regulations create the right incentives, and provide an attractive long-term future for agriculture in which incentive programmes and (independent) knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture are fully integrated. Ultimately, nature inclusivity will have to play a role across wider society. This will help to boost the demand for nature-inclusive products and make nature-inclusive business operations commercially viable.

OUR AIM: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR FARMERS

The year 2050 is not far away, and it is high time for a fruitful, regenerative and nature-inclusive way forwards for farmers. The domain of Agriculture has a clear goal. We want to increase nature inclusivity in agriculture, within every sector and in every type of operation. We will eliminate all barriers to achieving this goal, and introduce incentives. We will introduce incentivising legislation and regulations, extend our knowledge infrastructure to include farms themselves, and thereby increase the level of support for nature inclusivity in the sector. Working with farmers and other partners in the sector, we will work towards a sustainable revenue model. Together, we will not only help build a sustainable future for agriculture but also help to restore biodiversity, as set out in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action plans (NBSAPs) – because nature and agriculture have a future together.

AMBITION AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024-2026

1. The area of nature-inclusive agriculture is currently dominated by a limited group of pioneers, and so support for adopting nature-inclusive agriculture will be expanded with the specific aim of creating broader momentum.
2. Knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture will be made available and accessible to all farms. On the one hand this will provide the necessary practical knowledge and on the other hand it will clarify the benefits of nature-inclusive agriculture and make it possible to share these. Nature-inclusive agriculture will also form the basis of practical training for a new generation of farmers.
3. Transitional financing will be available for major conversion projects by farmers and supply chain partners for the longer term. Financial products and portfolio strategies will be developed that recognise and quantify the added value of nature-inclusive agriculture, and these will be made available to all farmers and supply chain partners.
4. The funding provided for nature-inclusive agriculture will, in all cases, cover the associated costs, but go further than this where possible. Society will invest significantly to improve the earning capacity of nature-inclusive farmers. The demand for nature-inclusive agricultural products and services will rise every year due to procurement in the public sector, healthcare institutions and other actors; these will actively support nature inclusivity through their procurement policies.
5. A clear vision for the future of agriculture will be articulated by the government and the sector, with nature-inclusive agriculture at its heart. Guidelines will also be advanced regarding how our country will position itself internationally and which measures can provide a future-proof revenue model for nature-inclusive agriculture. Legislation and regulations will have an incentivising effect, and disincentives will be eliminated.
6. There will be a shared vision for how system-level innovation can contribute to a sustainable nature-inclusive business model for farmers, farm advisors and society at large.



INITIATIVES 2024-2026

The action lines in this agenda are divided into steps in the investment agenda. The numbers alongside the actions for each year refer to the relevant step(s).

1. Consolidate existing knowledge infrastructure and set up additional, regional and practical knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture

STEPS:

1. Consolidate existing platforms and set up additional regional platforms, and ensure financial continuity
2. Consolidate existing practice-oriented networks and set up additional practice-oriented networks, and ensure financial continuity
3. Quartermasters for platforms, practice-oriented networks and national knowledge exchange
4. Mobilise, finance and deploy financially independent advisors for nature-inclusive business operations

2024

- Create an overview of platforms and networks that nature-inclusive farmers can use, along with the associated forms of finance and need for funding (1,2)
- Connect existing platforms and networks to promote knowledge exchange (1,2,3)
- Explore long-term forms of financing for nature-inclusive platforms and networks, and put these onto the agenda (1,2)
- Identify relevant partners for the platforms and networks (such as Boerenperspectief, Boeren. Natuurlijk!) (1,2,4)
- Coordinate and launch national knowledge exchange and associated quartermasters (3) Explore the structural funding options for independent advisors on nature-inclusive agriculture (4)

2025

- Identify missing platforms and networks (1,2)
- Set up a back-office for structural management and support for the platforms, so that the lessons learned from practice-oriented networks are fed back to policymakers (3)
- Create a series of knowledge questions from the platforms and work on these (3)
- Encourage and prioritise structural (public) financing for independent advisors for nature-inclusive agriculture (4)

2026

- Ensure progress on the creation of new platforms and networks (1,2)
- Structural, long-term financing for practice-oriented networks and platforms (1,2)
- Structural, long-term financing for independent advisors for nature-inclusive agriculture (4)

STAKEHOLDERS

Agricultural consultancy firms, nature & environmental organisations, public sector, agri-businesses, farmers' organisations and TBOs.



2. Encourage and develop the funding and financing of nature-inclusive farms

STEPS:

1. Develop roadmaps for various types of agricultural businesses
2. Address the financing and implementation of the Landscape Action Plan
3. Address the financing and implementation of the Grutto Action Plan
4. Link pilots and ensure knowledge development to expand the market for ecosystem services
5. Incentive programmes for the sale of nature-inclusive products and services, through financing programmes that contribute to this
6. Set up finance labs to develop financing products and strategies for nature-inclusive business operations

2024

- Develop roadmaps for various types of agricultural businesses (including possible measures) and farm advisors to work towards nature-inclusive business operations (1)
- Address the financing and implementation of the Aanvalsplan Landschap (2)
- Address financing and implementation of the Aanvalsplan Grutto (3)
- Gain insight into the preconditions for using public resources to reward nature-inclusive agriculture, such as relevant EU policy, cumulative rewards & legal context (4)
- Explore opportunities to expand the use of agricultural nature management to reward (other) ecosystem services (4)
- Identify policy instruments and other public resources that can stimulate the demand for nature-inclusive products (including ecosystem services) in the private sector (5)
- Establish incentive programmes for the market in nature-inclusive products and services (5)
- Ensure progress on the first finance lab pilot (6)
- Introduce nature inclusivity into the amendment of law regarding the leasing of agricultural land
- Establish knowledge exchange and inventory for requirements for scaling up ecosystem service pilots (4)
- We will focus on achieving goals rather than measures, such as the Accountable Substance Balance (ASB) and the Biodiversity Monitor.

2025

- We will create forms of financing for nature-inclusive measures based on the roadmaps and in combination with the KPI-K drawn up by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (1.5)
- Ensure progress on the upscaling of ecosystem services pilots (4)
- Scale up incentive programmes for the market for nature-inclusive products and services (5)
- Implement and use the overviews and studies established in 2024

STAKEHOLDERS

National and local government, TBOs, agriculture financiers, agriculture consultancy firms, farmers' interest groups, nature organisations, chain partners, chain partnerships, agribusiness.

ICON PROJECTS

The Natural Food & Drink Collective

This collective brings together sixteen major purchasers of food and drink to serve tasty and healthy food that has a positive impact on biodiversity.

Bioregion in the Greidhoeke

This initiative is all about developing a nature-inclusive agricultural region in Friesland through the development of practical knowledge and market development.

'Nedertarwe grain

A market initiative that is creating a new product using grain that has been grown in a nature-inclusive and sustainable manner, and marketing this in its own unique category.

Gelderland Platform for Nature-Inclusive Agriculture

This platform is an example of a practice-oriented network for nature-inclusive agriculture. The goals of the platform are mutual knowledge development and agronomic innovation.

Soil Heroes Foundation

Gathers practical knowledge regarding nature-inclusive agriculture for farmers and supply chain partners. The fund is particularly committed to exploring the relationship between soil health and nutritional value.



EDUCATION



VISION AND STRATEGY

LIFE, COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD AS A STARTING POINT

Nature is the foundation of our existence: humans are a part of nature. We are connected to, and dependent on, all other forms of life on Earth. The starting point for teaching and learning through nature-inclusive education is life, coexistence and the world around us. Connectedness, trust, diversity, reciprocity and equality: these are the values and principles that the domain of Education is building on. These principles will help us to learn to take good care of ourselves, each other and the world around us, in the realm of both the private and the professional. Developing a nature-inclusive attitude will provide a basis for sustainable development.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: TOWARDS 2030

This is not a question of choice. Ever since 1989, it has been internationally agreed that teaching children to respect the natural environment and preparing them for a responsible life in a free society are an integral part of the purpose of education. This is set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, because this is not yet always being achieved everywhere in the world, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also set the goal of ensuring that, by 2030, all schoolchildren will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development.

INTEGRATING AND SAFEGUARDING NATURE INCLUSIVITY IN EDUCATION.

The urgency of the situation we face and intrinsic motivation and ambition are the driving forces behind the increasing focus on nature and sustainability in education. Many educational institutions, social organisations and government institutions have already started pioneering numerous initiatives. Studies and real-life practice both show that focusing on nature and sustainability in education has hitherto mainly been done on an ad hoc and fragmented basis. The domain of Education is committed to integrating and safeguarding nature inclusivity in education by 2030, as set out in the SDGs. The wider goal: nature-inclusive education within one school generation: 2023-2030!

In the period 2024-2026, the emphasis will be on accelerating and broadening the support



for nature inclusivity in education, and building momentum. We will provide a testbed for constructive ideas and insights, and help these to be incorporated in education. We will play a facilitating role, focusing on the enabling ecosystems that educational professionals act within. To this end, we are committed to building alliances and removing obstacles.

In the period 2024-2026, we will focus on the formal education provided through primary education, secondary education, secondary vocational education, higher vocational education and university education. Non-formal education, such as lifelong learning and development, is not the focus in this initial period. Neither will childcare fall under the scope of the domain during this period.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The ambitions and actions set out in this agenda have been developed in dialogue with a broad group of nature-inclusive leaders in and around the education sector. Many education professionals have indicated the need for broader involvement by the educational field and tailored support, taking into account the legal freedom of education. At the same time, there is a need for a clear, overarching strategy from the various levels of government. An integrated approach by central government, local authorities, sector councils and educational umbrella organisations is essential in order to achieve this.

Within the Nature Inclusivity Agenda, the domain of Education will reflect the overarching strategy being developed by the government, along with the sector, to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainability in an appropriate manner. We will place the challenges around nature inclusivity in the context of promoting sustainability in education and wider society, always keeping local and regional diversity in mind. We will take a ‘whole-school’ approach to tackling challenges in an integrated manner.

DOMAIN OF EDUCATION: THREE AREAS OF RELEVANCE FOR NATURE INCLUSIVITY

Just as nature provides the basis of our society, the way we educate and raise our children forms the basis for creating a nature-inclusive society. Both education itself and the physical educational environment are important. Ideally, these reinforce each other: nature-inclusive education in a nature-inclusive educational environment. In this domain, a distinction is made between three relevant fields of nature inclusivity:

- Nature-inclusive general education is aimed at the broad development and formation of (young) people, based on the wider challenge of ensuring that young people feel connected to themselves, to others and to the world. Nature-inclusive education makes people aware of the people and environment around them, and encourages interaction. Through this interaction, they learn about the fundamental interdependencies that lie at the basis of our existence. They learn that we are part of something larger than us and discover the appeal that the (natural) environment has to us. Schoolchildren develop their own moral compass, which they can use to guide their actions. In the field of nature inclusivity in education, we will focus on strengthening personal development and citizenship education. This begins in primary education, while secondary education and lifelong learning will build on this further.
- A nature-inclusive society requires different competencies than the society that we live in today. Nature-inclusive education in relation to the labour market will prepare people to (continue to) function in a professional context. Having enough professionals with the right skills will be essential for the transition to a nature-inclusive society. This includes both emerging professions and new professional roles that the transition will bring about.
- Nature-inclusive education environments can provide a basis for a healthy living environment for people and animals. Green space and water are the building blocks that we can use to promote biodiversity, climate adaptation and health. Natural environments challenge the senses and provide opportunities for mental and physical relaxation, recreation and exercise. And the presence of nature around us also promotes social interaction, fosters a sense of purpose and boosts cognitive performance. The natural educational environment is not only a location where education takes place, but it also becomes part of the educational process. This applies at the level of individual buildings for education, school playgrounds, the immediate surroundings of a school and other natural locations that can be used in education.



AMBITIONS 2024-2026

In the period 2024-2026, our first ambition will be to nurture and support education in development. Ambitions 2, 3 and 4 (below) show how we will implement the three fields of nature inclusivity in education described above during that period. The fifth ambition is designed to support these developments, particularly in primary and secondary education.

1. Education in development

By the end of 2024, we will have a description of what we mean by ‘education for a nature-inclusive society’ that enjoys broad support. This description will take the form of principles and practices, and in the subsequent years these will serve as a basis on which to promote the movement towards nature-inclusive education from within.

2. **Nature-inclusive citizenship education**

By the end of 2026, learning to relate to one's natural environment will be seen as an integral part of citizenship education, and will therefore be part of the new core objectives for primary and early secondary education.

3. **Education for a nature-inclusive labour market**

By the end of 2026, education, the labour market and the public sector will be working more closely together to consolidate the position of nature inclusivity in further education. This will enable future professionals to develop the competencies they need to realise the transition to a nature-inclusive society.

4. **Nature-inclusive education environments**

By the end of 2026, the development of green-blue, nature-inclusive school playgrounds and education campuses will have gathered pace and the trend towards nature-inclusive buildings for education will have become the standard.

5. **NSE support structure**

By the end of 2026, the role of nature and sustainability education (NSE) in municipalities and regions will have been expanded and further professionalised and NSE will increasingly function as a development partner and support structure for education.

INITIATIVES 2024-2026

ACTION LINE 1 Education in development

- **ACTION 1A** Formulate principles and practices of education for a nature-inclusive society that can be applied in education. We will complete this action in 2024.
- **ACTION 1B** Promote the application of nature-inclusive principles and practices by schools and educational resource developers to align education with the core objectives.
- **ACTION 1C** Organise or co-organise inspiring meetings, exchanges and campaigns for education professionals and education support organisations, with a strong regional component.
- **ACTION 1D** Encourage the integration of nature inclusivity into training for education professionals through teacher training and school leader training.
- **ACTION 1E** Inform and support civil servants, political parties and democratic representatives as they develop policy for education. We will do this in conjunction with other sustainability-related themes in education.

ACTION LINE 2 Nature-inclusive citizenship education

- **ACTION 2A** Promote the role of schools as a training ground for citizenship. We will do this by inviting and equipping young people to make a difference to nature inclusivity at their school or institution through youth leadership and youth participation in education, for example through Eco-teams and Green Offices.
- **ACTION 2B** Encourage nature inclusivity by updating the core objectives for primary and early secondary education, to help schools to get started on nature inclusivity. To this end, through the Learning for Tomorrow cooperative we will take part in the advisory groups for the core objectives of Citizenship Education and the core objectives for learning areas that provide the context for this, such as People & Nature.
-

ACTION LINE 3 Education for a nature-inclusive labour market

- **ACTION 3A** Raise awareness of the crucial role of nature inclusivity in further education in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. We will do this by sharing the experiences of pioneers, starting with the domains of Agriculture and Construction. *(cross-domain; domains of Agriculture and Construction)*
- **ACTION 3B** Promote practice-oriented research and the application of the knowledge thereby acquired by establishing and strengthening practitioner groups (secondary vocational education) and lectureships (higher vocational education) regarding nature inclusivity and mutual knowledge exchange. *(cross-domain; all domains)*
- **ACTION 3C** Explore the need for professionals who can realise the transition to a nature-inclusive society and the educational task that results from this. *(cross-domain; all domains)*

ACTION LINE 4 Nature-inclusive educational environment

- **ACTION 4A** Accelerate the 'green revolution' in school playgrounds and on school campuses at existing and newly built schools and educational institutions by forming smart alliances and removing obstacles. *(cross-domain; domains of Construction and Health)*
- **ACTION 4B** Encourage the nature-inclusive construction of buildings for education by providing an insight into which measures need to be taken and integrating these into policy frameworks and (integrated) housing plans. *(cross-domain; domains of Construction and Health)*
- **ACTION 4C** Encourage the creation of locations that are suitable for outdoor education in nature reserves and other nature-rich areas in the vicinity of schools and educational institutions. *(cross-domain; domains of Construction, Health and Leisure economy)*

ACTION LINE 5 Support structure for nature and sustainability education

- **ACTION 5A** Encourage and help government (local, regional and national) to facilitate nature and sustainability education on a structural basis, so that all schools have access to reliable and high-quality services to make nature-inclusive education a reality.
- **ACTION 5B** Promote the quality of nature education, including the promotion of professional development of and regional cooperation between NSE professionals.
- **ACTION 5C** Promote cooperation between education at the national and local levels, such as between nature and culture, technology and engineering, health, exercise and sport.

ICON PROJECTS

Nature-rich Leadership Expedition

A school that is rich in nature: a place where all children can develop healthily and gain the knowledge and skills to help ensure that our planet stays vibrant with life. In the Nature-rich Leadership Expedition, 22 leaders from 12 primary schools from different educational streams work on this ambition collectively, each in their own way. Together with IVN Nature Education and Operation Education, they are making progress towards integrating nature as a normal part of every school day.

More nature, Deeper education

The 'More nature, Deeper education' project aims to launch a wider conversation among students and teachers about emerging trends and the potential impact of nature-inclusive education in an academic context. The project was established by Stichting NatuurCollege and the Education and Learning Centre at Wageningen University & Research. The aim of the project is to make recent insights into 'nature-inclusive' teaching methods more accessible to teachers, so that they can apply nature-oriented teaching methods in their lessons. This is a way of making nature-inclusive education part of the professional development of teachers.

Blauwe Hotspot Dordrecht

Blauwe Hotspot Dordrecht (Blue Hotspot Dordrecht) is one of the ten hotspots where the education organisation Yuverta is working with local government and the business community. Blauwe Hotspot Dordrecht is a community of pupils, teachers and professionals from the blue-green domain that focuses specifically on the themes of 'Water, Soil and Climate'. The Blauwe Hotspot thus provides a meeting place (both online and in person) where knowledge on these themes can be shared. The hotspot acts as an intermediary between education and business and aims to train experts by providing both formal education and lifelong learning.

Griffland College in Soest

A pupil from Griffland College in Soest remarked to a municipal councillor during an information evening on education: *'We have the right to education in sustainability. Young people want a healthy planet to live on and to pass on to our own children in a better condition.'* The pupil was a member of the Eco-team at the school, which encourages youth leadership and youth participation through participation in the global Eco-Schools programme. The secondary school is making an explicit link with citizenship education. The local welfare and nature organisation, Stichting Balans, is supporting the school in this development process.



LEISURE ECONOMY



VISION AND STRATEGY

NATURE: THE FOUNDATION FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Nature is the basis for our health, our happiness, a favourable climate, clean water, a pleasant living environment and economic prosperity. In order to preserve all of this, our task is to restore, strengthen and protect nature in our country. A nature-rich environment makes a pleasant place to live, work and spend our leisure time. People need to be able to spend time outdoors, to breathe fresh air, exercise, relax and go on holiday. So nature also provides the foundation for a flourishing leisure economy. And yet not everybody has the opportunity to spend time in a green environment.

INCREASING VISITOR NUMBERS IN NATURE AREAS

There are now 18 million people living in the Netherlands. One thing that unites us all is that we all need to be able to spend time outdoors – to recharge, revive and refresh. Since the coronavirus pandemic, it is not only Dutch people who are rediscovering our country but also millions of guests from other countries. And that number continues to rise steadily, just as our own population is growing too. These trends are putting ever more pressure on the areas of nature in our country, which are often small and fragmented. This makes them particularly vulnerable. Those who manage natural areas indicate that high visitor numbers are leading to problems, such as damage to nature, disruption to wildlife and growing amounts of litter.

EXTRA RECREATION SPACE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

To relieve the pressure on nature reserves and accommodate leisure activities for a growing population, additional space for recreation is needed so that visitors are more dispersed. The amount of green space available per inhabitant has decreased by 80% since 1900. By 2050, our country will have another 1.6 million people. For this reason, approximately 63,000 hectares of additional green space will be needed by 2050 – an area almost as large as the Veluwe region – to maintain the existing opportunities for recreation.



A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

A landscape that is sustainable must be based on the connection between nature and people. It must be both nature-inclusive and people-inclusive. By conserving nature (including waterways) and expanding or connecting areas of nature wherever possible, we can continue to enjoy it. This will create an increasingly attractive landscape that residents, visitors and businesses feel connected to. A landscape that can develop sustainably and where residents and guests can spend time in nature, discovering and relaxing, in harmony with the natural and social environment around them. The awareness that a sustainable landscape is important for a healthy and resilient society is spreading rapidly throughout the leisure sector. We are seeing that we really can make progress together, and that these steps are contributing to a more sustainable economy and greater biodiversity, as well as to the vitality, health, well-being and happiness of local residents and visitors.

A NATURE-INCLUSIVE LEISURE SECTOR

The leisure sector has a role to play in strengthening the position of nature in the Netherlands. We can do this by being more than just 'users of nature', and also making a meaningful contribution to the conservation and development of nature too. And we can also actively seek to improve the behaviour and awareness of visitors.

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The domain of Leisure Economy is working on three broad goals:

1. Expanding the amount of space available for leisure activities and recreation within a sustainable landscape.
2. Making areas for single-day and multi-day recreation, as well as sports areas, nature-inclusive.
3. Ensuring that the behaviour of visitors is nature-inclusive.



1. EXPANDING THE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR LEISURE AND RECREATION IN A SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE.

The needs of a growing number of people who want to relax, exercise and have fun in a green environment are currently often ignored in the plans and goals for the redevelopment of rural areas and cities. Green-blue recreational space that is close to people's homes contributes to public awareness around nature, is important for good physical and mental health, and ensures a better distribution of visitors, relieving the burden on vulnerable natural areas. More space for recreation can be created by designating additional recreation areas, connecting existing areas and making them easier to access, and designating multiple functions in cities and rural areas.

AMBITIONS 2024-2026

- Achieving a nature-inclusive and people-inclusive landscape is part of the local planning and design processes. This includes good green-blue, city-country connections (green-blue networking), and opening up the landscape through the development of an appropriate infrastructure for recreation, along with the associated route networks.
- In order to combine multiple functions, where possible we will coordinate the contribution of the leisure economy with challenges in other domains, such as health, agriculture, water, nature and construction.
- We will work with the sports sector to make existing sports areas more accessible to a wide target group.
- Create more (recreational) green and blue within and close to cities.

ACTION 2024-2026 **

1. **Establish and maintain a national nature-inclusive leisure network for the purpose of agenda-setting and the administrative integration of the leisure economy.**
Underscore the importance of the leisure economy, and ensure administrative integration into national, provincial and regional plans and programmes.
2. **Sign letters of intent with various subsectors of the leisure economy. Here, the emphasis is not on accountability, but on willingness to make an effort in the field of nature inclusivity.**

3. **Research into the basic human needs with respect to a green-blue environment.**

Targeted and substantiated integration of green-blue principles into various living environments, based on research into basic human needs with respect to green and blue nature in their environment.

4. **Create an overview of opportunities for connection.**

Create an overview of opportunities and decide on specific actions regarding the contribution of the leisure sector to other challenges around a landscape that is nature-inclusive and human-inclusive, such as:

- A. Agritourism and regional products – provides opportunities to open up rural areas, shorten supply chains and an additional revenue model for farmers.
- B. Relieve the burden on vulnerable nature reserves by spreading out visitors to rural areas that are closer to residential areas.
- C. Increase water awareness by, for example, opening up nature observation paths and making waterworks accessible.

5. **Create more (recreational) green and blue areas within cities.**

Strengthen the 'Nature Park City' initiative, which aims to protect and develop nature in urban areas. We also want to contribute to the development of recreational green standards and disseminate relevant knowledge.

*) More background information on actions in the domain of Leisure Economy can be found in the relevant background document; see www.agendanatuurinclusief.nl

2. MAKE SINGLE-DAY AND MULTI-DAY LEISURE AREAS NATURE INCLUSIVE, INCLUDING SPORTS AREAS

We will strive for complete nature inclusivity in all recreation areas in the Netherlands – both single-day recreation and multi-day recreation and sports areas. This represents approximately 5% of the total area of the Netherlands. Together with water partners (such as the Sports Fishing Association of the Netherlands), we will also look at strengthening aquatic nature. In addition to taking responsibility for nature inclusivity in their own environment, entrepreneurs and organisations will also work on raising awareness among their visitors.

AMBITION 2024-2026

- 20% of recreation areas have taken steps to become more nature-inclusive. This includes multi-day recreation sites, such as holiday parks and marinas, and single-day sites such as recreation boards and sports areas, but also (outdoor) events.

ACTIONS 2024-2026

1. **Develop a toolkit for application by entrepreneurs in pilot schemes.**

We will make entrepreneurs and organisations in our domain ambassadors for the landscapes in which they operate. This will enable them to make a positive contribution to the landscape and to the awareness and behaviour of visitors, based on a nature-inclusive operational model

2. **Certification.**

Reach agreements with subsectors on procedures, and enable certification regarding nature inclusivity. This will add to and strengthen what is already under development.

3. **Encourage and support entrepreneurs by providing knowledge and financial resources.**
Investment incentives are necessary, especially for small and medium-sized businesses, in order to accelerate progress on nature-inclusive entrepreneurship. The resources that we can make available for this will be updated.
4. **Nature-inclusive green facilities.**
Develop standards together with knowledge partners, such as gardeners (the Association of Gardeners and Landscapers) to work on recreation areas in a nature-inclusive manner.
5. **Park of the Future: national role model.**
We will position the 'Park of the Future' (Veluwe) as a role model for the whole of the Netherlands when it comes to nature inclusivity.

3. NATURE-INCLUSIVE BEHAVIOUR BY VISITORS

Nature-inclusive behaviour means leisure activities that are in harmony with nature. Visits should have as little impact on nature as possible. This means that visitors must respect the rules set by site managers, such as not leaving refuse behind, sticking to paths and following instructions regarding dogs. We will also encourage regenerative behaviour, whereby visitors give something back to nature, such as contributing to maintenance and construction.

AMBITIONS 2024-2026

- visitors. This includes measures for visitor management, recreational zoning and the distribution or concentration of visitors.
- The development of joint communication and activities to promote nature-inclusive behaviour.
- Encourage regenerative visits & behaviour by those using recreation areas.
- Create new nature experiences in partnership with the nature sector and the domain of Education.

ACTIES 2024-2026

1. **Research programme**
Collect information on visitor groups and failure to adopt the correct nature-inclusive behaviours, and investigate how to address this and which interventions to implement.
2. **Integrated collaboration**
Collaboration between various parties in the domain of Leisure Economy and the nature sector with regard to encouraging nature-inclusive behaviour. In order to achieve this:
 - Collective communication campaign entitled 'Nature's Guests'
 - Develop code of conduct for nature (green and blue)
 - Focus on scaling up existing initiatives around, for example, litter collection and campaigns.
3. **Regenerative tourism toolbox**
After reviewing best practices at home and abroad, a Regenerative Tourism toolbox will be developed. In collaboration with educational/research institutions, such as CELTH.
4. **Encourage better distribution of visitors**
Create new nature experiences, together with the nature sector and the domain of Education. Explore collaboration with the creative sector and games industry

5. Promote nature inclusivity as a requirement

Promote nature inclusivity as a requirement for projects/grants and tenders.

OTHER ACTIONS 2024 - 2026

Monitoring

Develop a proposal for the domain-specific monitoring of nature inclusivity. We will provide a set of measurable and observable parameters that can provide an insight into the extent to which measures taken by the leisure sector are contributing to nature inclusivity.

Knowledge Agenda

In the years to come, we will work on a Knowledge Agenda for a nature-inclusive leisure economy. To this end, we identify which knowledge gaps are impeding the ambitions of the leisure sector. We will look at how we can implement this on the basis of existing knowledge institutions and platforms.

Finance models

Identify which financing models and nature-inclusive markets have potential and can be developed specifically for the domain of Leisure Economy





ICON PROJECTS

Master plan for the IJssel valley

This plan focuses on the development of the IJssel valley for residents and visitors, aiming to combat the burden on the Veluwe region by offering an appealing alternative.

Park of the future (Veluwe)

A joint approach to nature inclusivity in tourist destinations in the Veluwe region.

Card game Ôfdwale in Noardeast-Fryslân

A card game that allows you to view and experience the Wadden Sea landscape from a different perspective. It originated from the art movement of 'situationism', which is all about learning to look at existing situations differently. Situationism is the art of experience. This card game could be scaled up to other areas.



WATER



VISION AND STRATEGY

A NATURE-INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO WATER

Water is one of life's essentials. Whether it's water for drinking, water for food production, water for recreation, water for industry – or water in its natural state. Areas of water are nature reserves; so much of our nature is underwater, and it plays an important role for species that live on land. However, waste can also accumulate in water – such as rubbish, excess nutrients, pesticides and medicine residues. Climate change is placing an ever heavier burden on water safety, freshwater availability and water quality.

The domain of Water relates to how we can enhance nature inclusivity in the Netherlands through the water system. Water is the element that connects a range of major social challenges. For example, a healthy water system is essential for agriculture and nature.

We will start with the water challenges that we face, because this is where our primary task lies, but we will also look to other domains with an eye to integration. The water challenges in the domain of Water are climate adaptation, water safety, flooding, the availability of freshwater, drinking water and water quality (KRW). Direct stakeholders in the domain of Water are the water authorities, drinking water companies, provinces, the Ministry of Infrastructure & Water Management and Rijkswaterstaat.

The domain of Water plans to address the above challenges through a nature-inclusive approach. This is a strategic and structural change of direction. Thinking in terms of the water system and nature inclusivity measures will form the basis for an integrated approach that adds societal value for climate, biodiversity and quality of life. Stakeholders see this as the most effective, sustainable and socio-economically responsible way in which to tackle interrelated challenges simultaneously and in a locally specific manner.

CURRENT CLIMATE ISSUES

We are currently facing urgent problems in various areas in the Netherlands with respect to housing, sustainable energy, food and agriculture, quality of life, the environment, nature and biodiversity, climate adaptation and water quality. All these challenges are connected to and



have an impact on water and our water system. This is increasing the pressure on the water system and the availability of freshwater.

Climate change is expected to make sustainable water management even more urgent in the years to come. It is leading to rising sea levels, increasing the pressure on dikes and the risk of salinisation of agricultural land and nature reserves. Climate change is also leading to more intense rainfall that is causing economic and social damage to agriculture, infrastructure, companies and buildings. In addition to sea level rise, we are also facing longer dry periods, and this is putting further pressure on supplies of drinking water, agriculture, nature and flood safety. And climate change is also leading to higher temperatures, resulting in heat stress in people and the death of fish due to lack of oxygen.

These are not just matters for the future, but current issues that have all occurred during the past five years. There has been flooding in Limburg and water damage for bulb farmers in North Holland, dehydration and fish mortality in Overijssel, the Achterhoek and Limburg, salinisation of agricultural land in Zeeland and there have been restrictions on shipping in our rivers.

The domain of Water faces major challenges when it comes to water management, water safety, water quality and ensuring enough freshwater. Water is an important element in spatial tasks, both in national programmes and at the local and regional level. The ambition of participating parties in the domain of Water is to develop a coherent, nature-inclusive approach to these challenges, taking water as the basis. Our ambition consists of two elements:

1. **Water connects** - we want to shape the key role that the domain of Water plays in nature inclusivity in the Netherlands in partnership with other sectors;
2. **Water is the engine** - Good water management is often a route to tackling other local challenges. We want to make progress and tackle our water challenges in a nature-inclusive way. And where possible, we want to help tackle other challenges/domains.

To this end, we will focus on integrated, natural solutions, also known as nature-based solutions or building with nature. Under this approach, as required by the water and soil management policy, thinking in terms of the water system will take precedence, and preference will be given to nature-inclusive measures as the most sustainable solution. Our commitment is that this approach will become mainstream in the domain of Water. This will bring us into line with the ambitions of the Delta Plan for Biodiversity Restoration and NL2120.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND BLUE-GREEN NETWORK

The creation of an integrated Blue-Green Network is one way of utilising the connecting role of water in making the Netherlands nature inclusive. This network is consistent with water and soil management, the Delta Plan for Restoring Biodiversity and Green-blue Networking (NLPG) and represents the translation of this into the regional and local spatial planning processes. In this way, water operators, together with provinces and municipalities, will work on a nature-inclusive, healthy and climate-resilient national and regional water system. The development of the Blue-Green Network could include nature-friendly river banks in areas of peatland and meandering streams in areas with sandy soil. The Blue-Green Network is an extension of the Netherlands Nature Network (the nature reserves themselves), but will also create added value for water quality and the quantity of water. The quality of the Blue-Green Network must be guaranteed. In order to have a positive impact on water quality and biodiversity, a guideline figure of 10% of green-blue networking (basic quality of nature) has been set for rural areas.

The connecting function of water is also reflected in the need for adequate freshwater. Climate change means that we need to be better prepared for both water shortages and excess water. Integrated, nature-inclusive solutions or nature-based solutions (NbS) provide opportunities to combine nature with water storage, sources of drinking water and attractive residential and recreational areas. In rural areas, the nature-inclusive approach forms the basis for the future of agriculture, drinking water and the restoration of nature. Nature contributes to the protection of groundwater and surface water, as well as sources of drinking water. A precondition for all nature-inclusive solutions is that water quality must be improved by tackling sources of pollution effectively. The nature-inclusive approach must also be anchored in water policy and water management protocols.



ACTIONS 2024-2026

In the domain of Water, we propose a transition towards a nature-inclusive approach to water challenges. We will do this both in our own operations and projects, and in collaboration with others. We will work with pioneers and icon projects that can serve as inspiring example projects for the water challenges we face. We have developed an initial list of activities that we will work on and refine with the sector. This will lead to an action programme that everybody can support.

1. **Nature-inclusive water sector:** Develop a vision for nature inclusivity in the water sector, including the design/planning and management cycle. The North Sea and Wadden Sea require special attention. This means that nature-based solutions will be used to improve marine ecology in mineral extraction, wind energy, shipping, nature and fishing.
2. **Develop new, nature-inclusive, inspiring icon projects:** set up and develop inspirational projects for the nature-inclusive water sector, both on land and at sea.
3. **Natural capital in the water sector:** Develop the economic value of a nature-inclusive approach for the water sector; and possible water revenue models for the agricultural sector. This includes developing a prospectus for investment in Nature-based Solutions, in partnership with NL2120. **Nature-inclusivity benchmark:** Develop a practical and inspiring benchmark with which to measure the application of nature inclusivity in design/planning/management by actors in the water sector. The benchmark should serve to encourage and challenge. This approach is consistent with the ongoing Corporate Sustainability
4. **Reporting Directive (CSRD) project.** We will also ensure consistency with national developments regarding nature monitoring (LNV, RWS and provinces) and Climate Change Knowledge Development. With the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations/Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), we explore whether nature-friendly river banks can be included in the Basic Register of Large-Scale Topography as part of the 'Landscape Monitor'.
5. **Coordination of water policy:** Link the Nature Inclusivity Agenda with other water and spatial programmes at the policy level, such as the Flood Protection Programme and the Delta Programme.
6. **Nature-inclusive water community:** Develop an active water community for all administrative and official actors and people involved to enable knowledge sharing and inspire each other and others. We will join, and seek inspiration from, other communities within the water sector such as those of HWBP, KRW, PAGW, Delta Plan Biodiversity Recovery. This will enable us to help shape the broader development and conceptualisation of a nature-inclusive water sector.

Due to the connecting and integrated nature of water, the actions outlined above will be carried out in connection with other domains.



ICON PROJECTS

Room for the River

(RWS and water authorities)

With many valuable lessons on the different ways of working in a locally specific way and creating added value for society.

Hollandse Duinen National Park

(Drinking water companies)

The management of the coastal dunes as a nature reserve in South Holland by Dunea, an organisation that protects the strategic drinking water supply and nature, and provides recreational space.

'Tusschen Water' Project

(Drinking water companies, province of Drenthe, municipality of Tynaarlo, Hunze and Aa's Water Authority, Groningen Water Company and Stichting Het Drentse Landschap).

Restoring biodiversity and creating space for water storage, nature, recreation and drinking water extraction.



BUSINESS PARKS

INTRODUCTION ROUND: NEW DOMAIN BUSINESS PARKS

Most business parks are far from nature-inclusive at present, and actually represent an obstacle for both nature and people. The domain of Business Parks sees enormous opportunities to make room for nature in combination with the required sustainability, economic development and an attractive working and living environment. The aim of this domain is to make nature inclusivity into an aspect of future-proof business parks that is simply taken for granted. But we are not there yet.

The transition is beginning slowly, especially for existing business parks. This is due to the combination of hard and soft barriers, such as the lack of a sense of urgency, policy and inadequate organisation.

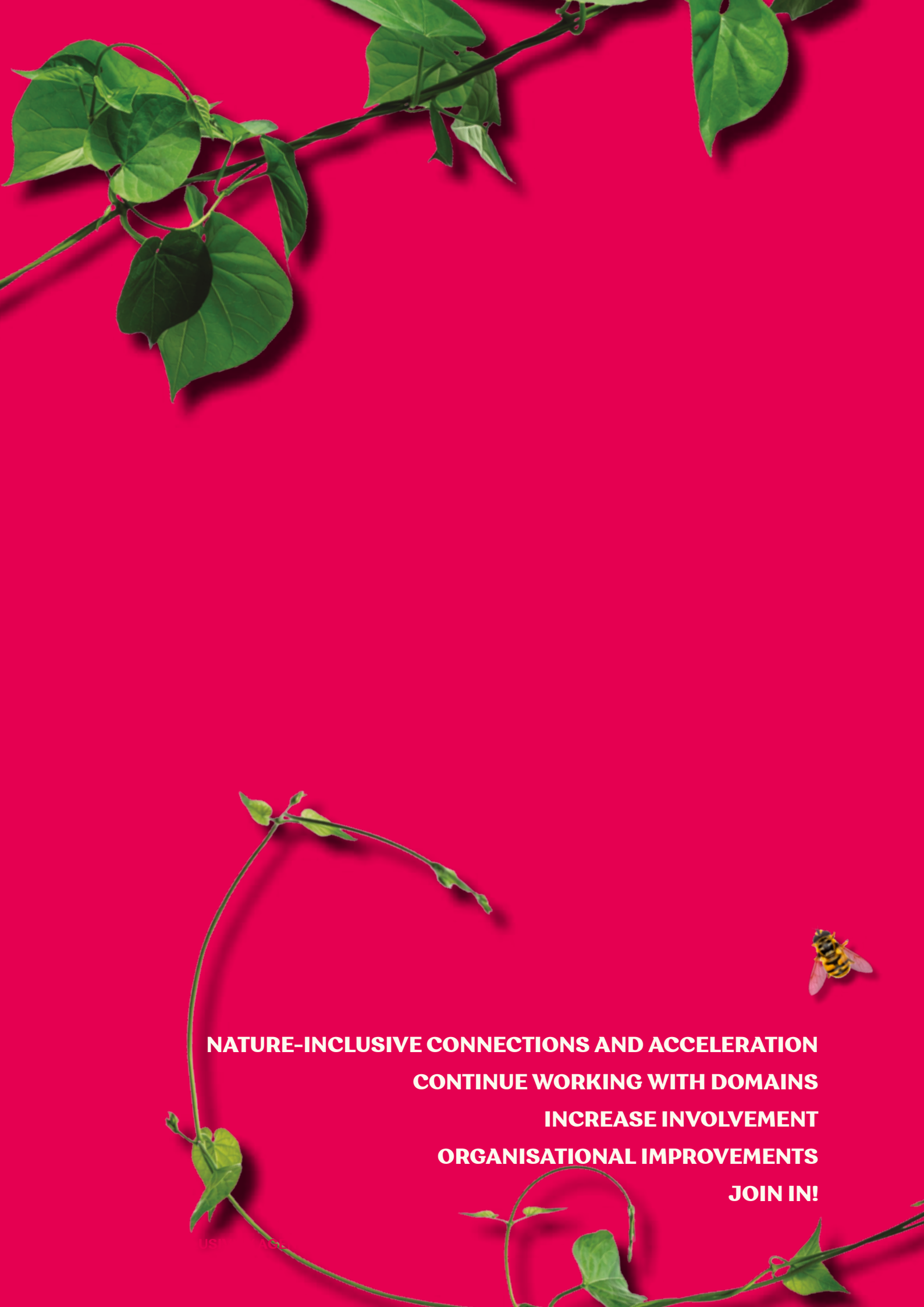
Now that the Nature Inclusivity Agenda is underway, we see that the domain of Business Parks has a dynamic of its own in terms of the challenges that need to be addressed and the parties involved. This is why this new domain has been created, in order to speed up progress towards a nature-inclusive future in this sector too.

We will create connections with the other domains; towards a fully fledged role for Water in business parks. The interconnections with the domains of Construction, Infrastructure and Energy are self-evident. We also see a strong connection with the Financial Sector domain during the realisation phase, and with the health and well-being of workers and local residents.

We will also look for connections with existing programmes and developments, such as Climate-proof Together, Working Landscapes of the Future and PVB. Here, we see a number of challenges and gaps to be addressed that would be a good fit with the approach of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda, including the challenge of linking outdoor space/environment and buildings.

We will work on these as part of item 1 on our Agenda: 'Nature everywhere and for everybody'.





NATURE-INCLUSIVE CONNECTIONS AND ACCELERATION
CONTINUE WORKING WITH DOMAINS
INCREASE INVOLVEMENT
ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS
JOIN IN!

CHAPTER 4. **THE NEXT STEPS FOWARD... ..**



COORDINATING AND ACCELERATING NATURE INCLUSIVITY

Speaking on behalf of the Nature Inclusivity Collective, we take great pride in what we have achieved together. We also understand that there is still a long way to go. Working on the basis of this version 2.0 of the Agenda, we will continue to work towards a nature-inclusive society. The actions that we are taking are becoming more rigorous: after all, this is no longer simply a matter of choice. Nature is not in a hurry, but the time to take action is here.

The goal of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 is to ensure that ever more parties work, think and act in a nature-inclusive manner. We are taking a two-pronged approach to this. On the one hand, we are inspiring, encouraging and facilitating parties that already (want to) work in a nature-inclusive manner, based on their intrinsic motivation to do so. On the other hand, a more proactive role is also needed. We will therefore work on regulations, standards and financing to ensure that, ultimately, everybody works, thinks and acts in a nature-inclusive manner.

What other steps can you expect from the Nature Inclusivity Collective to make further progress towards a nature-inclusive society and achieve tangible results?

CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE DOMAINS

- Our movement is growing: Over the past year, the number of domains has grown from eight (in Agenda 1.0) to ten (in the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0). The domains of Health and Business Parks were added last year.
- The domain leaders and coordinators will remain at the helm during the transition to a nature-inclusive society. As of 1 January 2024, the domain coordinators will receive funding to implement Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 and be provided with additional resources
- to bring their ambitions to fruition. We will also focus actively on joint and coordinated action by the domains.
- The domains are now stronger and better coordinated, but they continue to grow and evolve in order to increase their impact. More domains may be added and existing domains may be expanded. The domains will strengthen the network of green leaders, where possible by supporting and helping to scale up initiatives and efforts.
- The investment agenda is still being drafted. The domains and a team of financial experts will continue to work on this (see Chapter 2).
- The consortium of Naturalis, IUCN, MVO-NL, PBL and RIVM will continue to work on products to measure and monitor nature inclusivity (see Chapter 2).

INCREASE INVOLVEMENT

- Following the publication of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0, the Nature Inclusivity Collective will ask a range of public and private actors for their views on this new agenda. We will ask the four tiers of government, social organisations and private-sector actors what they can contribute to the implementation of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0. Where necessary, administrative agreements will be made – in the form of covenants or pacts, for instance.
- We want to work towards administrative agreements in the form of a 'Nature Pact 2.0' or an equivalent set of agreements, which will widen and specify the commitments and goals with respect to a nature-inclusive society for every level of government. This work can build on the positive achievements of all tiers of government, such as the provincial programmes 'Nature for each other' (Overijssel), 'Green grows with us' (Utrecht) and 'Contour Agenda for Nature Inclusivity' (South Holland). This may result in a Nature Inclusivity Agenda for each province. The

important role played by municipalities in the public realm may also have a prominent place in this.

- We will be working on the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 3.0 in parallel to the implementation of Agenda 2.0 (2024-2026). We anticipate the start of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 3.0 in 2027. As a growing collective, we are raising our ambitions, involving ever more participants and finding ways to make faster progress towards a nature-inclusive society by 2050.

ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

- The National Nature Inclusivity Council and its twenty members will continue to oversee the Nature Inclusivity Agenda and its implementation. The Nature Inclusive Ambassador and independent chairperson will continue to lead the council.
- The programme office will contribute to the movement by assisting with communication, participation and behavioural change in close collaboration with the domains. This is how we will connect, involve and inspire more parties – not only green leaders, but also actors for which nature-inclusive thinking and acting is less self-evident.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) will make funding available in the coming years for the various domains, for expanding the programme office and for building commitment to the Investment Agenda and the consortium for Measuring and Monitoring.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and the Nature Inclusivity Programme Office will coordinate inter-departmental and inter-administrative cooperation between provinces, municipalities, water authorities and central government, together with the Nature-Inclusivity Coordinators appointed for this purpose.
- Nature-inclusive society will thrive in areas where local challenges and identity play a role. We will focus on integrating nature-inclusivity into national and regional programmes (such as the National and Provincial Rural Area Programmes) and utilising the lessons learned from growth projects and inspiration areas.
- It is not only nature inclusivity that requires awareness and systemic change: the same applies for other societal challenges such as climate, circularity and the environment. Wherever possible, we will join forces with those addressing these related societal challenges – for example by collaborating with representatives from the Climate Agreement and the Circular Economy implementation programme at the implementation tables.
- In 2024-2025 we will evaluate the strategy, approach and organisation of the Nature Inclusivity Collective in the transition towards a nature-inclusive society. This way we can make changes, where necessary, in the implementation of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 and the drafting of Nature Inclusivity Agenda 3.0.

JOIN IN!

In the shift towards a nature-inclusive society, we need everybody. Because it is only by working together that we can tackle this large and complex challenge. And it is only together that we can achieve a healthy future for us, our children and our grandchildren. So every contribution is welcome and needed

We, as a collective, want to hear about your ideas and what you can contribute to the movement towards a nature-inclusive society. We look forward to your inspiring ideas and plans for a nature-inclusive society!

See www.agendanatuurinclusief.nl for more information.





ANNEX 1. STATUS OF NATURE INCLUSIVITY AGENDA 1.0 ACTIONS

ANNEX 2 INSPIRATION AREA: NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY

ANNEX 3. INITIAL INSIGHTS FROM THE INVESTMENT AGENDA

ANNEXES



STATUS OF NATURE INCLUSIVITY AGENDA 1.0 ACTIONS

OCTOBER 2023

	NATURE INCLUSIVITY AGENDA 1.0 ACTIONS	COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS
CONSTRUCTION	Develop a national vision that clearly defines what nature-inclusive construction is.	Completed. This is an integral aspect of the domain of Construction, and has therefore already been completed.
	Include nature-inclusive requirements in Buildings Decree	Completed. The Environment Buildings Decree (Bbl) includes a basis for setting specific requirements for facilities for building-dependent protected species in the Environment and Planning Regulation. In progress. Participants intend to sign the final NIEWHOL agreement in 2024.
ENERGY	Integrate nature inclusivity into present and future policy instruments for sustainable energy, such as the Nature-inclusive Energy Transition Guide for Wind and High-voltage Onshore (NIEWHOL)	In progress. Intention to nationally certify existing code of conduct for onshore solar.
	Encourage nature-inclusive solar parks	Completed. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality will tackle this together with other ministries.
FINANCIAL SECTOR	Review flows of public funding (grants, levies and taxes) and ensure that these are having a positive effect on biodiversity	Completed. The Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) has launched a framework that enables financial institutions and companies to assess their financial risks with respect to nature.
	Continue developing the 'Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures', which encourages companies to report on their impact on the loss of nature and biodiversity.	Completed. The Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) has launched a framework that enables financial institutions and companies to assess their financial risks with respect to nature.
HEALTH	Not applicable because this domain was not launched until after Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0	
INFRASTRUCTURE	Incorporate nature inclusivity into visions, policy and action plans.	In progress. Part of one of the main actions for this domain in Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0.

	Add nature inclusivity to the scope and the awarding of projects involving infrastructure construction, design and management.	In progress. Part of one of the main actions for this domain in Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0.
AGRICULTURE	Through a regional-scale example project: develop an area vision for nature-inclusive agriculture and a map that shows all local challenges involving climate, water and biodiversity.	Completed. This idea has been expanded into an inspiration area for Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0, with as many domains participating as possible.
	Establish and implement a programme to support and facilitate agricultural businesses as they transition towards nature-inclusive agriculture, including a system of KPIs to reward nature-inclusive agriculture.	Completed. Translated into two actions in Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set up and strengthen regional practice-oriented networks, and • develop and distribute roadmaps for various sectors of nature-inclusive agriculture.
EDUCATION (AND AWARENESS)	Gain knowledge about encouraging a more nature-inclusive approach	Completed. This is an integral part of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda and specifically of the domain of Education.
	Convert this knowledge into added value for nature inclusivity	Completed. This is an integral part of the Nature Inclusivity Agenda and specifically of the domain of Education.
LEISURE ECONOMY	Draw up and implement an action plan to distribute the pressure on nature reserves due to recreational visitors	Completed. Action has been translated into the follow-up steps for the domain in Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0
	Reinforce public-private partnerships for nature-inclusive recreation in the domain of Leisure Economy.	Completed. Action has been translated into the follow-up steps for the domain in Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0
WATER	Explore the options for establishing a national Water & Soil steering group (cabinet advice from LNV/landW).	Completed. At the end of 2022, the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management informed parliament of the policy of making water and soil a permanent priority in spatial planning.
	Follow-up step: the national framework for soil... from the national steering group... regional level	Completed. Within the framework of the NPLG, specific green-blue interconnections are currently being developed locally.





THE ADDED VALUE OF A NATURE-INCLUSIVE PERSPECTIVE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

This Annex provides an insight into the opportunities that could arise if a nature-inclusive perspective were to be applied at the local-area level. In the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 1.0 the domain of Agriculture included an action to create the following in a sample area on a regional scale: an area vision for nature-inclusive agriculture and a map that combines all regional challenges in the field of climate, water and biodiversity. Focusing on one single area invites us to approach societal challenges and local developments across multiple domains. This is why we decided to approach this from the perspective of all the domains in the Agenda. Using one area as a starting point can create space for smart combinations, creative solutions, multiple land use and revenue models. In one geographical area, we can see how humans can coexist with nature, and how nature can help to tackle societal challenges and provide added value to society as a whole.

We see that a movement is emerging that consists of public, private and societal actors that are applying a nature-inclusive perspective to societal challenges, both small and large. At the same time, there is a tension between these bottom-up initiatives based on an integrated, nature-inclusive approach, and the financial and policy structures that are often arranged along sectoral and programmatic lines. By working together in one inspiration area, we aim to gain practical knowledge about how we can strengthen nature-inclusivity initiatives.

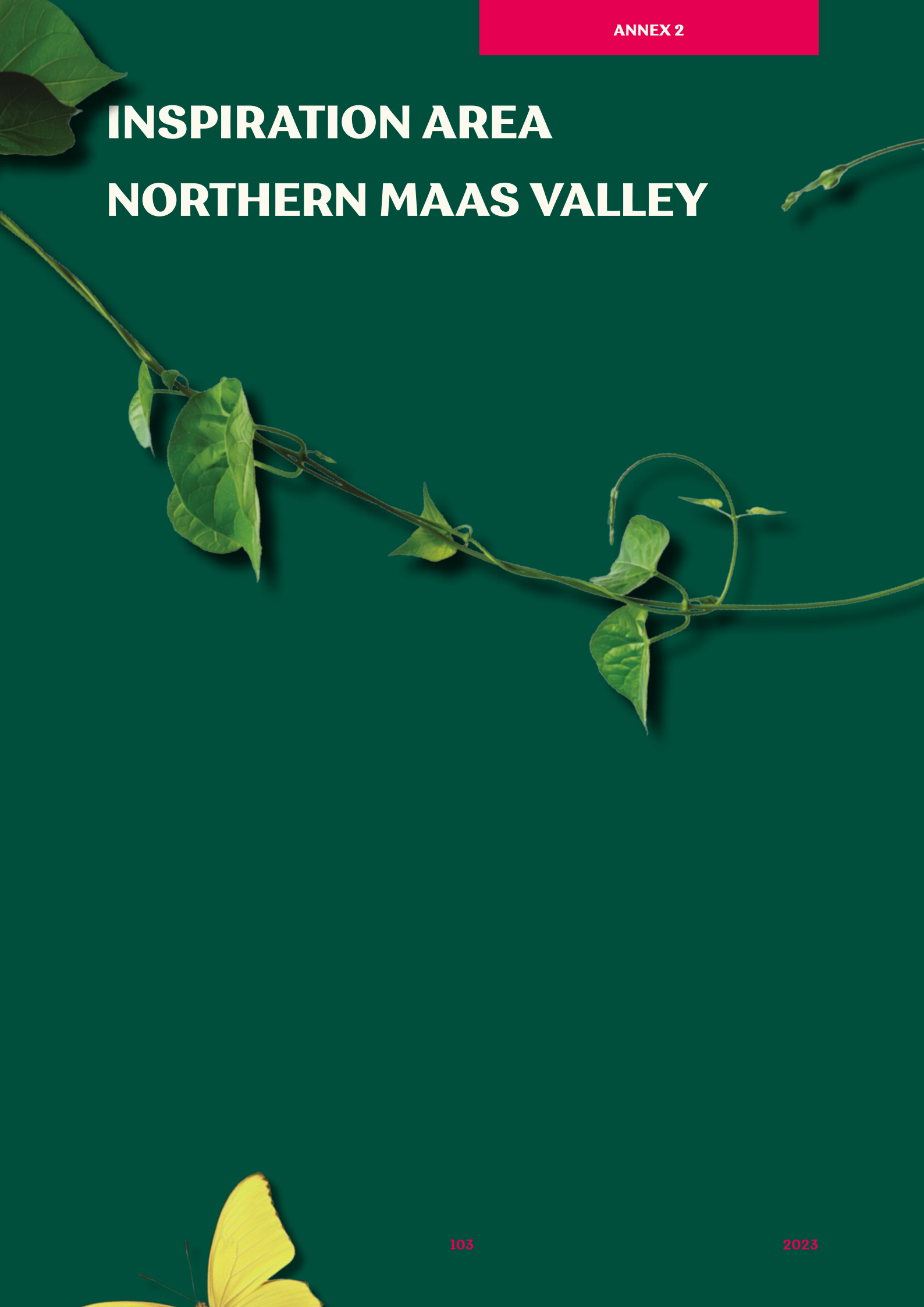
AN OPPORTUNITY SCAN WITH THREE PERSPECTIVES

WE are exploring the added value of a nature-inclusive approach in a specific area using an opportunity scan. The opportunity scan consists of three steps, each of which involves looking at the area from a different perspective: (1) the bird's eye view provides an overview of the current situation in the area, and we zoom in on societal challenges and nature-inclusive initiatives; (2) the frog's eye view looks at a particular area where water plays a prominent role; (3) the butterfly perspective reveals opportunities that arise from an integrated, nature-inclusive lens. We worked with local officials and entrepreneurs in order to complete the opportunity scan.

THE NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY IN LIMBURG

The opportunity scan for the Northern Maas Valley in Limburg, from Neer to Mook (see overview map on page 107), was chosen to begin with, because we saw several starting points for a nature-inclusive approach. Firstly, the unique geology of the Maas Valley requires an integrated approach to local development that takes account of the natural terrace structure of the valley. Secondly, a culture of working collectively on societal challenges has developed, and ensuring that high water in the river can be accommodated is an important aspect of this. This factor seems to help in building support for integrated local developments among residents, businesses and civil servants, with nature as a starting point. Thirdly, the area is leading the search for solutions to a number of societal challenges around smart, multifunctional land use in the lower-lying areas of the Maas valley. We want to explore whether nature-inclusive ideas from Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 can enhance the quality of local development projects still further in this area.

INSPIRATION AREA NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY



INSPIRATION AREA

THE RIVER MAAS AS THE ARCHITECT OF A UNIQUE TERRACE STRUCTURE

The valley is characterised by its unique terrace structure that has been formed by the river over millions of years. The terrace structure provides natural protection against high water in the river, and consequently most of the valley has traditionally not required dikes. Once, the river, the surrounding land and the economy were all closely interlinked, but due to increases in scale and the associated developments, they have become increasingly distant from each other.

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES IN THE AREA

The bird's eye view shows us the area from above, highlighting societal challenges and nature-inclusive initiatives. Along with the ecological characteristics, these form the testing ground for the opportunity scan. In its Vision for the Environment, the province focuses on three societal challenges: (1) an attractive, social, healthy and safe living environment in urban and rural areas; (2) a future-proof, innovative and sustainable economy, in which the agricultural transition is given a prominent place; (3) climate adaptation and energy transition. The infographic on page 105 provides more information on those challenges in the Northern Maas Valley.

NATURE-INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES

A great deal is already happening. The various levels of government are working on the relevant tasks through local development processes and programmes. In addition, there are several societal public and private initiatives in the Maas Valley that provide inspiration and (partial) solutions to societal challenges from a nature-inclusive perspective. The infographic on page 105 provides more information on six nature-inclusive initiatives, by way of illustration. The basic principle in each of these initiatives is that it is more effective to work with nature rather than against it. These initiatives can provide a good starting point for nature-inclusive local developments. We would like to explore whether there are benefits to be gained by seeking more synergy between public and private, and between nature-related challenges and other challenges, and between different domains in the area.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW: THE NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY

This infographic introduces the area using a (fictional) map of the valley, highlighting four societal challenges and six nature-inclusive initiatives. The icons shown alongside the initiatives refer to the various domains.

MAATSCHAPPELIJKE OPGAVEN

HEALTH & SECURITY

The population is getting older, which is pushing up the demand for and cost of care. The province has asked for a focus on the creation of a healthy and safe living environment that encourages physical movement, social interaction, self-reliance and a healthy lifestyle.

ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ADAPTION

The area faces issues such as flood safety, stress due to dry weather and heat, and these problems affect businesses and residents. The region also faces the energy transition challenge, which will strengthen the regional economic structure and also reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Within the strengthening of the regional economy, a particular priority is on ensuring that the agricultural sector has decent socio-economic prospects because this sector plays an important role in the economy and in rural areas.

NATURE INCLUSIVITY

There are a number of challenges around improving the quality of water and nature, ranging from conserving and restoring N2000 areas to improving the quality of soil and water, as explained in LPLG.

NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY

Province Limburg

Number of municipalities 2

Population  289.248

SCENARIO 1



SCENARIO 2



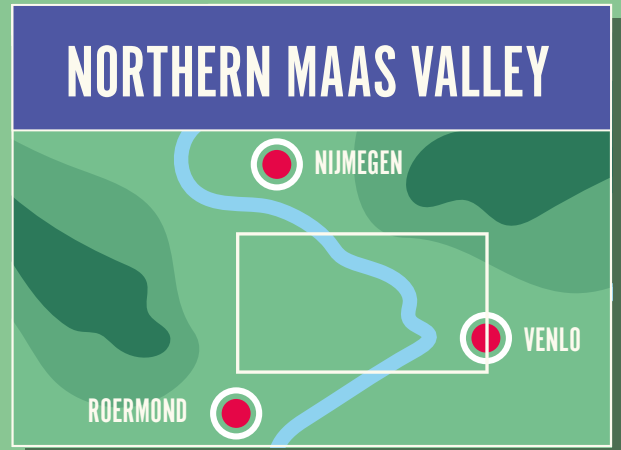
SCENARIO 3



MOOK



NEER



- ### NATURE-INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES
- 1 BLUE ZONE:** An ambitious project for realising the first Blue Zone in the Netherlands in the Maasduinen National Park. This is a cross-domain project that focuses on preventive care and collaboration between the domains of healthcare, agriculture, recreation and water.
 - 2 STEEP-SIDED DIKE:** A steep-sided dike is a dike that is integrated into the landscape and is not recognisable as a dike. Erosion provides a natural habitat for sand martins, among other species.
 - 3 GREENPORT VENLO:** A nature-inclusive wind farm in Venlo. This area was once used for agricultural land and livestock farming. Since 2012, the area has become a climate-adaptive and nature-inclusive working landscape.
 - 4 VIERWAARDEN:** In the Vierwaarden project, various tiers of government are working on a local development programme that combines dike reinforcement with other challenges, such as enhancing the position of nature and the landscape, relocating the Venlo marina and improving recreational opportunities.
 - 5 GREEN RIVER WELL:** In this project, the municipality wants to develop and test out revenue models for nature-inclusive agriculture. As a first step, the municipality has purchased an agricultural business to test models, and is exploring partnerships with private parties.
 - 6 MAAS HEDGES:** An integrated local programme in which various tiers of government are working together with nature organisations to preserve and restore the traditional small-scale landscape with multiple landscape elements that contribute to biodiversity, conservation and restoration.



MUNICIPALITIES OF VENLO, PEEL & MAAS

FLOOD SAFETY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL & MAAS AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF VENLO

Since the high waters of 1993 and 1995, a lot of work has been done to improve flood safety in the Northern Maas valley. The establishment of the new standard for water safety in 2017 led to a new round of dike reinforcement projects under the Flood Protection Programme (HWBP) and 'Room for the River'. As part of this, the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick programme has recently been established to achieve three goals for the Maas valley between Oyen and Hout-Blerick (in the municipality of Peel & Maas and the municipality of Venlo): (1) flood safety; (2) the creation of new nature areas; (3) strengthening the local economy.

STARTING POINTS FOR NATURE INCLUSIVITY IN THE PREFERRED VARIANT

In a terraced landscape, raising the dike inevitably means finding a new connection with a higher terrace. At the initiative of the municipality and a number of agricultural businesses in the area, a preferred alternative has been drawn up within the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick programme. This preferred alternative will work with the natural landscape and a steep-sided dike, rather than an extended dike, will be proposed. Financing for the preferred alternative has now been allocated by the various levels of government. At the same time as the dikes are being reinforced, other societal challenges, as explained in the infographic on page 107, have come into focus. One of these is that the agricultural sector in the Maas Valley is under pressure. The future of greenhouse horticulture in particular is limited, because there is not enough space to benefit from economies of scale. Within the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick Programme, the municipality is encouraging businesses to play a role in tackling societal challenges, such as developing revenue models that focus on nature-inclusive agriculture, recreation and tourism, residential-care combinations, and education.

POSSIBLE QUALITY IMPULSE FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

There are a number of specific research questions within this preferred alternative that could benefit from a nature-inclusive and cross-domain perspective, such as how to connect various drainage points in the area into a logical and coherent green structure, how to support local businesses in developing their nature inclusivity further based on the associated revenue models, how to support the connections between the (new) areas inside and outside the dike, and the associated (area) financing options. The businesses and officials involved see opportunities to continue working on these plans based on the preferred alternative, and indicate that they are interested in (nature-inclusive) knowledge, network and links with the right sources of finance.



FROG'S EYE PERSPECTIVE: FLOOD SAFETY IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF VENLO, PEEL & MAAS

This infographic presents the area using a fictional map. It shows how the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick programme is addressing flood safety and related challenges in the municipalities of Peel & Maas and Venlo. There are six research projects within the programme. The icons shown alongside the initiatives refer to the various domains.

FLOOD SAFETY

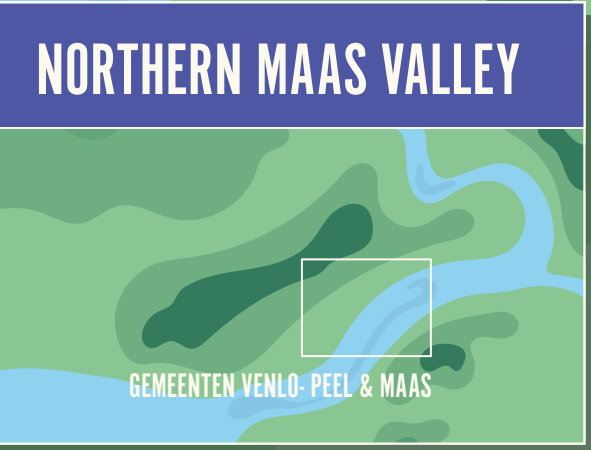
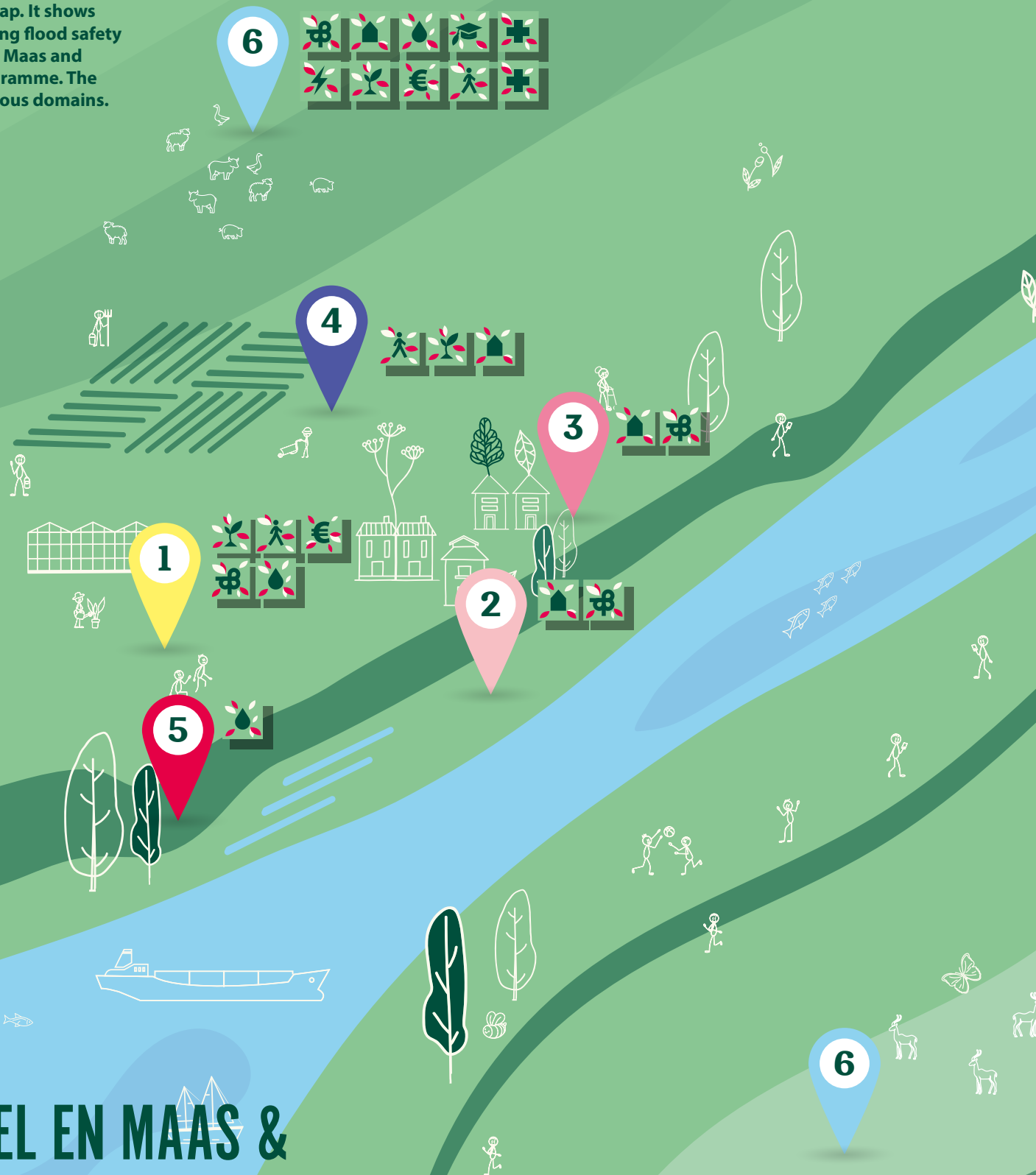
Flooding at high water is an aspect of climate adaptation, and could affect 175,000 inhabitants in Limburg along the River Maas and cause billions in damage. To prevent this, residents and businesses are being protected by strengthening of dikes and changing the position of dikes.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The agriculture and leisure sectors both face challenges that relate to the landscape. The agriculture sector must ensure that intensive animal farming and greenhouse horticulture are done in harmony with the landscape. The leisure sector will need to adapt its growth to the smaller-scale of the culture landscape.

NATURE INCLUSIVITY

From the Baarlo-Houtblerick programme, the call is made to ensure that the landscape is a priority in future developments, to develop new areas of nature, to improve contact between local communities and the River Maas, and to develop a strong recreation network.



- ### RESEARCH CHALLENGES
- 1 HUMMERENWEG STEEP-SIDED DIKE** The possibility of creating an alternative dike solution (steep-sided dike) within the Baarlo-Hourblerick Programme, for the local development around the Hummerenweg.
 - 2 RESIDENTIAL ISLAND** The possibility of creating a sustainable residential island on the high ground in the river.
 - 3 LOCATIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION** The legal options and feasibility of accommodating the preferences of residents who cannot continue to live in the central area due to flood-safety considerations.
 - 4 REDESIGN OF CENTRAL AREA BEYOND THE DIKES** Further research into the options for improving spatial quality in the Laerbroek area by, where possible, transforming the existing agricultural area into a small-scale culture landscape and enhancing the value of nature.
 - 5 INUNDATION CHANNELS** Achieving nature in inundation areas, another task in the Water Directive Framework.
 - 6 OTHER POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COORDINATION** Investigate the integration of recreational hiking routes where possible and, for example, the restoration of the old course of the Middelste Horst.

MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL EN MAAS & MUNICIPALITY OF VENLO

Province Limburg
 Municipalities Peel en Maas & Venlo
 Number of municipalities 2

Population 148.604





CROSS-DOMAIN

OPPORTUNITY SCAN FOR A NATURE-INCLUSIVE MAAS VALLEY

We are applying the knowledge and imagination of the Nature Inclusivity Collective to carry out an opportunity scan for a nature-inclusive Maas Valley and build on the integrated local vision for flood safety in the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick Programme. We are looking for synergy or 'opportunities for connection' between nature and other societal challenges. The focus is on nature-based solutions, among others, whereby the positive power of nature is used as a (partial) solution.

THE POTENTIAL ADDED VALUE OF SYNERGY

For example, an area designed to be green-blue can contribute to improving water quality and the restoration of the small-scale traditional landscape of hedgerows, and at the same time strengthen the local economy by adding leisure opportunities and a nature-inclusive agricultural sector. In addition, a nature-inclusive area can contribute to preventive healthcare and improve the appeal of the area to residents and visitors from the region and beyond. The construction of the steep-sided dike can be used to link the nature-inclusive initiatives in the Maas Valley, thereby strengthening the nature-inclusive movement. We also see an opportunity to explore whether we can develop or test innovative forms of financing in the inspiration area, together with the Financial Sector domain. And we see an opportunity for the area to provide practical knowledge for the Basic Quality of Nature programme, which is working to define and monitor the basic quality of nature in an area, and identify potential improvements.

AN INSPIRATION AREA CAN ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TO A NATURE-INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

On the one hand, we see the potential added value of the opportunities identified in the scan for the area itself. There appears to be support among local residents and businesses for nature-inclusive local development in the Northern Maas Valley. There also appear to be opportunities for coordination with regional policy, such as: the Baarlo - Hout-Blerick programme, the Environmental Vision and the LPLG, which include objectives such as improving water quality, safeguarding biodiversity and at the same time strengthening the regional economy. On the other hand, we see the added value of the inspiration area when it comes to generating practical knowledge about the opportunities and obstacles within nature-inclusive local developments, such as stimulating legislation and regulations, and the required forms of financing. We are exploring whether we can develop a toolbox for nature-inclusive local developments, which can include appropriate forms of financing, partnerships and nature-based solutions. The Nature Inclusivity Collective can then use this practical knowledge to draw attention to new solutions. Due to its public-private nature, the Nature Inclusivity Collective can also help to connect public and private parties at the local level, and where necessary provide support through knowledge, creativity and networking.



BUTTERFLY PERSPECTIVE: NATURE-INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

This infographic shows a number of opportunities that the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0 has identified in the challenges around improved water safety in the municipalities of Venlo and Peel & Maas, by adopting a nature-inclusive, cross-domain lens.

AREAS FOR NATURE-INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE

We see opportunities to use the construction of a steep-sided dike through the area to encourage existing farmers to make the transition to nature-inclusive agriculture. The demand for nature-inclusive agricultural products can be promoted by governments, healthcare and educational institutions. In addition, land in the area can be made available for nature-inclusive agriculture. The Peelvenen Land Exchange Fund, for example, can serve as inspiration for this.



PREVENTIVE CARE AS AN IMPORTANT PILLAR FOR THE AREA

Given the ageing population and rising healthcare costs, we view preventive care as an important pillar that can add value throughout the entire Maas Valley; we can also connect the whole valley to the Blue Zone project in Maasduinen National Park. We see an opportunity to increase the demand for nature-inclusive food from care and educational institutions and to explore whether agricultural entrepreneurs can supply some care services and, together with the leisure economy domain, create green outdoor spaces.



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SCENARIO 1



SCENARIO 2



SCENARIO 3



BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS DELIVER TAILORED PROJECTS

We recognise that integrated, nature-inclusive projects require tailor-made solutions from businesses, government bodies and financiers. An inspiration area can provide a space in which to deliver tailored solutions together and to learn lessons from real-life practice. For example, we see opportunities for grid operators to make the raised electrical infrastructure that is needed due to future higher water levels more nature-inclusive, opportunities to explore integrated local financing together with financial institutions and governments, opportunities to make the Greenport, with its nine wind turbines, part of the local green-blue network, and opportunities for local educational institutions to work on learning lessons from the inspiration area.



FUNDING MODELS FOR GREEN-BLUE NETWORKS

We see an opportunity to help restore biodiversity and water quality by using the construction of the dike to expand nature and create landscape elements on agricultural land in partnership with farmers. We also see scope for innovative models in which (regional) public and private parties finance the construction and management of landscape elements.



NORTHERN MAAS VALLEY



KEY TO DOMAINS

This key explains the icons used to represent the various domains. It also provides a brief introduction to the ambitions in each domain with respect to nature inclusivity.



CONSTRUCTION

We are developing and taking action to formulate a vision and strategy with the ultimate goal of creating awareness and achieving behavioural change to move towards a built environment that is nature-inclusive.



FINANCIAL SECTOR

Our ambition is for the financial sector to impose nature-inclusivity requirements whenever finance is provided or investments are made. In this way, the finance sector can contribute to the transition towards a nature-inclusive society.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Within the infrastructure sector, we discuss utilizing the potential of the enormous area (representing 8% of the total land area of the Netherlands) along the country's roads, railways, dikes, waterways and utility infrastructure to help restore biodiversity.



WATER

We argue for a rethink of our water system based on nature-based solutions as the key to the climate-robust restoration of biodiversity.



HEALTH

We focus on the 'reciprocity' of nature. A green living environment helps people to stay healthy and/or become healthier; at the same time, people can also help to restore and protect nature. Every investment in nature is also an investment in our health.



ENERGY

Based on the Nature Inclusivity Agenda 2.0, we will use nature inclusivity to work with the energy sector to achieve the maximum positive impact on nature. We seek to minimise damage and identify opportunities to reinforce nature and wildlife populations.



AGRICULTURE

We will focus firstly on creating a practical regional knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture, and secondly on developing opportunities to connect to other domains to enable nature-inclusive agriculture to be funded and financed.



EDUCATION

We are committed to integrating and safeguarding nature inclusivity in education. We see a facilitating role for the Agenda in this. We will function as a testbed for the integration of new ideas and insights around nature-inclusive education, and encourage their incorporation into education.



LEISURE ECONOMY

We are committed to a pleasant and sustainable landscape. A landscape is formed where the connection between nature and people creates a foundation. As such, landscapes can be inclusive of both nature and people.



BUSINESS PARKS

Our goal is to make nature inclusivity a natural part of future-proof business parks.



ANNEX 3



INITIAL INSIGHTS FROM THE INVESTMENT AGENDA

CHALLENGES FOR THE INVESTMENT AGENDA.

Lagging investments: Investing in nature and nature inclusivity has fallen behind in recent years, partly because the value of nature has not been taken into account adequately and has been neglected in our society, including in government policy. This is evident from, among other things, previous cuts to funding for the development and management of nature. On the private side, nature has also not been included in economic considerations – often focusing on the short term – to an adequate extent. The negative consequences of this neglect often only become visible over the longer term. Looking at the recent past, we see that if we fail to invest in nature and the environment, we will face additional costs further down the line.

Nature provides significant (societal) value: Nature is often seen as a ‘high cost’ item and this creates a false dichotomy between nature and the economy, making it seem as if investing in nature must necessarily come at the expense of the economy. However, numerous studies show that nature actually provides the economy with a significant amount of (social) value. The contribution of ecosystem services exceeds the value of the real economy¹ and more than 70% of all companies in Europe are highly dependent on at least one ecosystem service².

Nature is affordable: The investment costs remain at manageable levels when we take an integrated view of the costs and benefits. Based on an ambitious scenario, the IBO Biodiversity estimates the one-off investment required at approximately €8 billion from the national budget, plus recurring expenses of approximately €600 million³. This would need to be accompanied by investments and diversion of funds from other tiers of government and market participants, which are currently having a negative impact on nature. In light of our dependency on nature as a society and the risks to the continuity of the Dutch economy in the form of physical and legal risks, this amount seems affordable.

Too little validated, quantifiable insight: It is remarkable that, with the exception of anecdotal or highly abstract evidence, there is currently very little quantifiable insight into the actual costs and benefits of investing in nature or nature-inclusive construction, development and activities. This is a major shortcoming, because it makes a significant difference whether nature inclusivity is accompanied by additional investment costs in the order of a few percentage points or in the order of a few tens of percentage points. It sometimes seems that assumed higher additional costs are not real. It is more the case that the extra work required is simply not a priority and the associated maintenance costs and (management) responsibilities are unpopular. Even if these only represent a very limited share of the total investment. The fact that actual costs and benefits are not transparent illustrates the challenge that the Netherlands faces: we have failed to include the value of nature in our economic and financial models. This is the change that is now required. Investing in nature inclusivity requires, first and foremost, a mindset in which nature is automatically taken into account in investment decisions.

Prevention is better and cheaper: There are cases where taking an approach that is not nature-inclusive later proves to entail additional costs, for example in the form of (roadside) fires, desiccation, soil and water pollution or water damage. In a sustainable financial-economic system, it is essential to prevent future costs. This is particularly true in the light of juridification in the case of non-compliance with standards (nitrogen-based pollution, water quality) and economic obstacles (construction), which will have even more significant consequences.

1 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378014000685>

2 <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/blog/date/2023/html/ecb.blog230608~5cffb7c349.en.html>

3 IBO biodiversiteit, 2023. <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2023/09/05/ibo-biodiversiteit-snel-aan-de-slag>

Nature as part of the solution: In certain cases, nature already provides a cost-effective alternative to challenges that are currently approached in a one-dimension manner. This includes nature-based solutions, such as water storage and purification in nature reserves, cooling through trees and the flood protection provided by sand dunes. We already know of examples where nature inclusivity has reduced the risk of damage to people and the economy: the damage caused by floods in Limburg in 2021, although significant, was lower compared to that suffered in neighbouring countries, for instance. Around the IJssel, Maas and Waal rivers, the value of nature has been enhanced through the 'Room for the River' programme, while flood safety has also been improved. So we can achieve a great deal, and the interaction between economy and nature can also be positive.

Public and private funding must be brought together in our mission to move towards a nature-inclusive Netherlands. The various tiers of government must provide more consistent guidance based on public instruments, not only through grants but also by setting standards and making investments of their own. Market participants should make it clearer that they also have an intrinsic motivation and be true to their words. There is work to be done on nature inclusivity for both parties. The aim is to make nature-inclusive business cases profitable. This is comparable with the complex challenges we face in the energy transition, circularity and sustainability of agriculture. As long as non-sustainable solutions, whether or not expressly supported by the existing system of – sometimes perverse – public (tax relief, grants) and private (loans, equity) incentives, lead to profitable outcomes, nature inclusivity cannot be assured. In order to transition to a nature-inclusive society, lessons can be learned from the experiences previously gained in other areas (e.g. the energy transition, where yesterday's pioneers are now benefiting from lower energy bills or higher real estate values). The solution is not simple, but the transition must start now. Nature - like art and culture - can never be reduced to a business case. The value of nature simply cannot be expressed in money, even if the state of nature says a lot about the intrinsic values that society attributes to its environment.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following recommendations apply, in principle, to all actors involved in the agenda for nature inclusivity. However, some are more relevant to the public sector and others also extend to executive services and private actors.

1. Communicate a clear direction, with respect to preferences (tendering, concessions) and your own direction (of the business).
2. Encourage pioneers, with development paths (employees), incentive grants (organisations) and market position (awarding contracts), invest in green innovations. Government bodies should ensure that non-nature-inclusive production or development is more expensive than the nature-inclusive alternative through permits and enforcement.
3. Phase out destructive cash flows. Make it clear which financial flows have negative effects, phase these out, increase the price of materials with a negative impact on nature or ban them, and aim for nature-inclusive conditions. Where reasonable, provide a path forward by covering transition costs, through loans or grants. These should be phased: change should be worth it. Allow pioneers to benefit from the risks they take and their intrinsic motivation.
4. Standardise the minimum for nature-inclusive behaviour and integrate standards with comparable standards in the areas of climate, energy and the environment where possible. Identify a clear path so that every party can see which direction it is moving in and can respond accordingly.
5. Focus on implementation, make the leap to implementation, create room for experimentation, make the costs and benefits transparent in practice. Developing nature cannot always be planned in advance, allow scope for practical interpretation and make adjustments if necessary.
6. Include nature in major financial flows, make major financial flows more sustainable (unless they are clearly irrelevant) through nature-positive ambitions, it is not enough to make the impact manageable (which leads to decline).
7. Start now, not tomorrow, do not delay, waiting means higher costs (to restore nature), a longer wait for the benefits (health, water) and higher risks (conflicts with regulations, damage to health).



MAIN STARTING POINTS FOR EACH DOMAIN

CONSTRUCTION - Evaluate and finance the value of nature-inclusive construction

The obvious value of nature to the living and working environment (health, climate adaptation, aesthetics, etc.) is not reflected in the price of surrounding real estate. Continue to carry out research into this and incorporate the findings into valuation and finance practice, so that increased real estate values can offset the cost of nature-inclusive development or redevelopment projects.

Energy - Integrate nature inclusivity as part of project financing on a structural basis

The allocation of rights (concessions) and funding grants (SDE, WOZ) must be made dependent on the extent to which nature inclusivity is achieved. The field of practice must respond to the opportunities available in areas; in principle, funding and financing should no longer focus solely on maximum energy yields. In investing in a sustainable future for the Netherlands, we do not want to undermine that same sustainable future by failing to build, operate and manage installations in a nature-inclusive manner.

FINANCIAL SECTOR - Accelerate the financing of the transition to nature inclusivity through clear government policy

The financial sector can help speed up the transition to nature inclusivity by financing the activities that are necessary to the transition and for which there is a business case. In addition, the sector itself can become more sustainable by using knowledge around nature-inclusive financing, incorporating nature and biodiversity into risk models and continuing to develop nature-inclusive financial products and instruments. The financing requirements for the transition to nature inclusivity are diverse, which means that various financial institutions can play a role in different types of investments. But above all, the financial sector needs a clear policy at the national level – in terms of goals, indicators, deadlines, standards and financing, for example – so that it can play its role across all the domains and sectors.

HEALTHCARE - Arrange incentive funding for nature-inclusive healthcare

Although the relationship between nature and health is becoming increasingly clear, there is still no structural coverage for nature-inclusive care within existing resources for the care sector and the green domain. Therefore, arrange impulse funds and structural resources for activities in which prevention, curative care and the enhancement and restoration of nature go hand in hand. Good examples are the greening of sites where care is provided, healthy green neighbourhoods, and the deployment of people on the sidelines in green spaces to aid their recovery and the restoration of nature. Such investments will yield numerous societal benefits, including reducing ever-rising healthcare costs. Additional applied research can provide more insight into the effectiveness of nature for health (prevention, curative) and the further substantiation of societal benefits.

INFRASTRUCTURE - Move to structural realisation

Convert nature-inclusive ambitions into practical use of resources in large-scale infrastructure projects; identify any additional costs ex ante and link these to benefits. Force transition by deploying a substantiated percentage of project costs to ensure nature inclusivity. Costs and benefits can be brought closer together by knowledge exchange, scale and market innovations.

AGRICULTURE - Make funding for ecosystem services and agricultural nature management available more quickly

This will make ecosystem services and nature management an integral part of the revenue model of nature-inclusive farming and create an economically feasible path forward. It is also essential to set up regional, practice-oriented knowledge infrastructure for nature-inclusive agriculture.

EDUCATION - Work together to realise nature-inclusive education within one school generation

Nature-inclusive education is essential for the ambition of thinking and acting in a nature-inclusive way across wider society. The transition to nature-inclusive education can only take place if the various actors in and around education work together to achieve the same shared goal: nature-inclusive education within one school generation. This will require, for example, investment to make the locations where education is provided green, structural funding for nature education programmes and close cooperation between education and the labour market to educate the nature-inclusive professionals of the future.

LEISURE ECONOMY - Bring the leisure economy into the debate

The leisure economy is closely linked to the transition in rural areas and the urbanisation agenda, but is not currently taking part in the debate. As a result, potential synergies are missed and there is a good chance that investment will be made in nature, but not in accessibility. Accessible 'human-inclusive' nature will be essential in the transition towards a nature-inclusive society. At the same time, making the countryside more accessible for recreational purposes is important in order to reduce the pressure on nature reserves. This will also bring opportunities for farmers and entrepreneurs. Another opportunity concerns linking recreational infrastructure and routes to the green-blue networking in rural areas.

WATER - Nature-based solutions

Work towards increasing the share of nature-inclusive measures (nature-based solutions) that are implemented in water management. The rationale here is that in the domain of Water, nature-based solutions are a cost-effective solution compared to civil engineering solutions in many cases. Additional nature-inclusive investment can enhance the quality of nature, with societal added value for climate adaptation, the environment and recreation.

BUSINESS PARKS - yet to be determined as this domain was launched very recently







CONTACT

Do you have questions or would you like more detailed information? Visit: www.agendanatuurinclusief.nl

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Nature called... and Agenda 2.0 picked up!

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