



VGP Biodiversity Strategy 2030

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VGP Biodiversity Strategy

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As part of its ESG Strategy roadmap, the Group developed a Group biodiversity strategy in 2022. This biodiversity strategy, which is summarized in this document, was subsequently converted into a biodiversity policy in 2023.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030¹ sets out a comprehensive package of commitments and actions to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of its citizens, the planet, the climate and the economy, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the objective of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The goal of the policy is to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy was published in 2021 and on that basis in 2022 VGP developed a biodiversity Group strategy based on the following four pillars:

¹ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives, Publications Office of the European Union, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/677548>



Four pillars of VGP's biodiversity strategy

Actions and commitments to 2030



1 Protect nature

Respect protected areas and sites with high biodiversity value and stakes.



2 Restore nature

Restore nature, first where such an investment is most meaningful and advance sustainable management across the value chain



3 Enable transformative change

Enable change through education of own workforce and stakeholders; seek to strengthen use of green financing framework



4 Actions to support biodiversity outside of value chain

Deploy actions outside of immediate value chain through continuation of VGP Foundation nature projects

A complete biodiversity risk assessment study of the Group's standing assets resulted in a categorization and risk mitigation strategy, in order to identify appropriate actions. The following key commitments and goals were subsequently formulated:

Pillar 1: protecting nature

VGP operates in the EU and is therefore bound by a strong legal framework to protect its most valuable, rare and threatened species and habitats across the countries in which it operates. In alignment with sustainability standards of BREEAM and DGNB, as well as with the minimum safeguard requirements of EU Taxonomy, the Group has implemented a Conservation Hierarchy and Ecology planning which is **detailed in the VGP Corporate Biodiversity Policy²**.



Pillar 1: key commitments and goals

- Do not develop business parks on land matching the definition of protected forests as set out in national law and used in the national greenhouse gas inventory
- Avoid developments on greenfield land with high biodiversity value and land that serves as habitat for endangered species as listed on the European Red List or IUCN Red List
- 100% development projects to implement a biodiversity action plan

² <https://www.vgpparks.eu/media/4876/vgp-biodiversity-strategy-a4-en-k04.pdf>

Pillar 2: restore nature

The VGP Biodiversity strategy and policy lays out a comprehensive plan of actions to help restore biodiversity in VGP Parks, first in those locations with the most meaningful impact. Particularly in those locations with a meaningful impact the strategy includes a restoration agenda and value natural capital in the long run.

Focus on Proximity and Exposure to Protected Areas:

- A biodiversity study evaluated our standing assets **based on location and their proximity to sensitive areas** (e.g., EU-protected sites, IBAT scores³).
- This study helped identify **potential risks** associated with these locations, such as future regulatory or legal constraints, reputational risks and biodiversity-related liabilities or challenges.

Categorization for Risk-Based Prioritization:

- By **categorizing locations** and stipulating a **call to action** for those closer to sensitive areas, the study assisted the Group in outlining a **risk mitigation strategy**



Pillar 2: key commitments and goals

- 100% standing assets with meaningful biodiversity stakes to implement a biodiversity action plan
- 100% of our portfolio implements biodiversity initiatives by 2030
- Develop biotopes in or around VGP Parks in selected locations where it aligns with ecological and sustainability goals
- Plant additional native species and climate resilient trees and vegetation in existing parks

³ IBAT (Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool) is a global biodiversity data platform that provides access to key biodiversity information (<https://www.ibat-alliance.org/>)

Pillar 3: enable transformative change

Adopting a more integrated and whole-of-society approach to biodiversity will ensure co-responsibility and co-ownership by all relevant actors in meeting the EU's biodiversity commitments. An enabling environment for both VGP employees, stakeholders and society at large is essential to change the way biodiversity is perceived.



Pillar 3: key commitments and goals

- Ensure biodiversity initiatives are visible and explained where feasible, in order to support educational value
- Target through the VGP Academy 500+ participants annually for training, including on biodiversity relevant topics
- 80% of employees to participate annually one day in meaningful community charity program, including biodiversity (learning) projects
- Support charitable educational projects focused on biodiversity through VGP Foundation
- Support a fair and inclusive transition to a green economy through offering smaller business units in VGP where it can make a positive impact and aligns with local needs
- Unlock green financing through the use of green financing framework including biodiversity topics

Pillar 4: actions to support biodiversity outside of value chain

A final cornerstone of the VGP Biodiversity Strategy sets out the **VGP Foundation**⁴ ambitions to support nature conservation and biodiversity projects in Europe and abroad.



Pillar 4: key commitments and goals

- The VGP Foundation will continue to engage in projects encouraging nature conservation, such as saving and creating permanent biotopes, protecting animals and their natural habitats, or educational programmes raising public awareness about respective issues

⁴ <https://vgp-foundation.eu/en/projects/?category=nature>

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