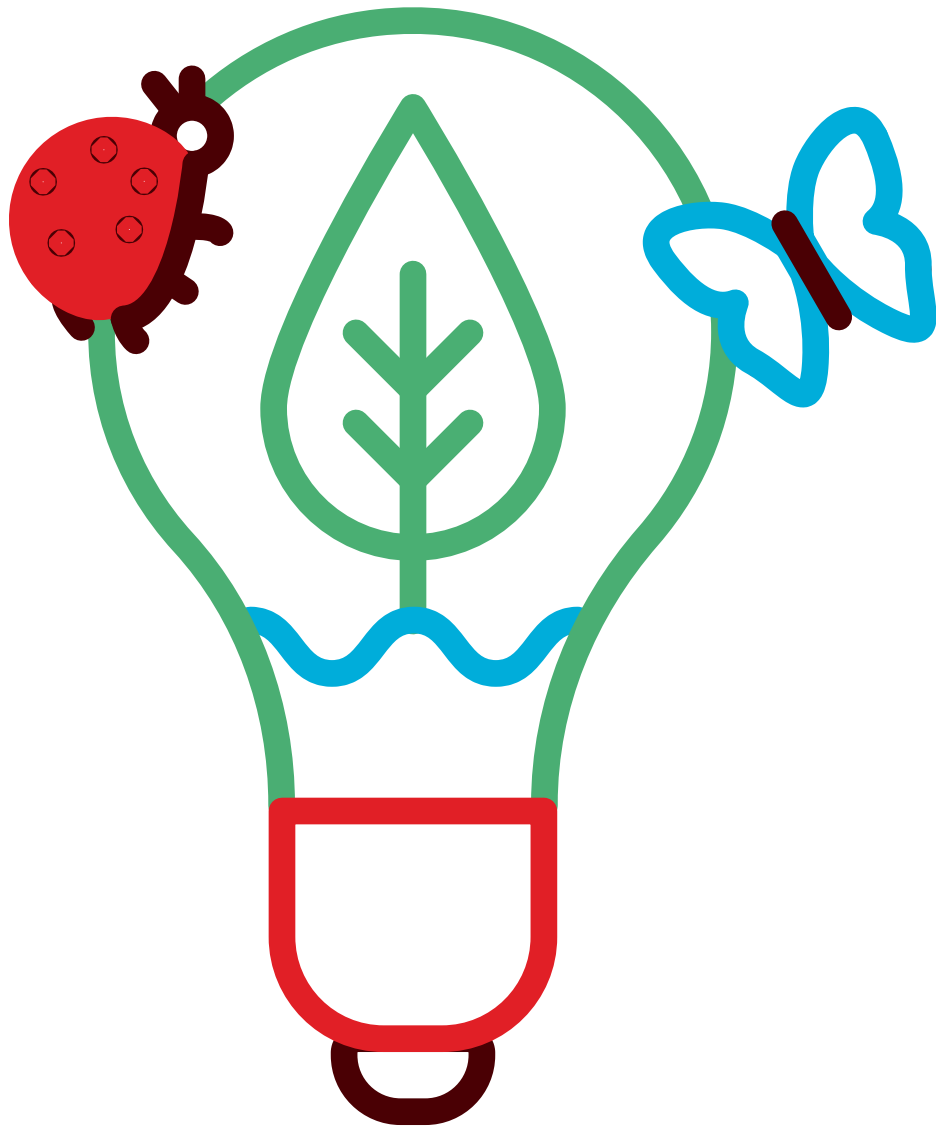


# Biodiversity 2022 annual report



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# Biodiversity annual report

The implementation of the biodiversity policy is the joint responsibility of the Campus Development department at Radboud University, the Bouwzaken project office at Radboud university medical center, and the Radboud university medical center Service Department. A Biodiversity project group was created for this purpose, consisting of representatives from Radboud University and Radboud university medical center in collaboration with external parties. Every year, the project group adopts an implementation programme and reports on this to the Campus Development Department at Radboud University, the Construction Project Office at Radboud university medical center, and the Service Department at Radboud university medical center. The project group also liaises with the directors for Sustainability, the Green Office, and the Radboud Biodiversity Sounding Board Group in which several stakeholders are involved, such as local residents, the Municipality of Nijmegen, and Hortus Nijmegen as well as students, scientists, and staff members.

In this document, the project group reports on its activities in 2022. The purpose is to communicate its progress. The ongoing implementation programme can be adjusted based on this information.

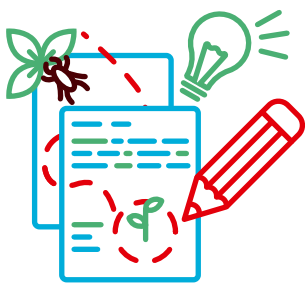
## Highlights in 2022

- Biodiversity policy established by Radboud university medical center
- Radboud Campus Biodiversity Vision adopted
- Installation of green roofs included in the Technical Manual
- Replanting of Disveldbos completed
- Using the Biodiversity Benchmark
- Meeting of the Biodiversity Sounding Board Group

## Retrospective of 2022

The projects and activities carried out by the project group are summarised in this report and organised using the following themes:

### 1. Planning



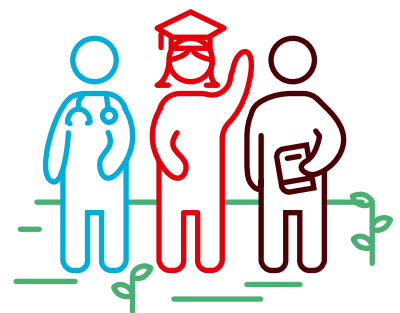
### 2. Projects & initiatives



### 3. Monitoring



### 4. Stakeholders



# 1. Planning



## Biodiversity policy

After Radboud University adopted the biodiversity policy in 2021, the Executive Board of Radboud university medical center did the same in 2022. This has truly made it a joint policy.

## Radboud Campus Biodiversity Vision

Bureau Strooming has created a biodiversity vision for the entire campus. The reason was that the joint biodiversity policy did not yet have a cohesive vision and action perspective for green and blue structure. The vision for the next five to ten years described in this report fills this gap. Bureau Strooming presented the vision to the stakeholders on 27 September 2022.

The current green space is a mosaic of mixed forest, park forest, and grassland with some ponds and, to a limited extent, green spaces on and atop the buildings. It is home to protected species, and some grassland and parts of the forest are already reasonably natural. However, there are many more opportunities to strengthen biodiversity. They are expanded upon in this vision. The report has made us aware of the opportunities. The area could soon become the green centre of the municipal biodiversity plan, with the design of the green infrastructure improved to benefit the experience of students, patients, staff members, and other users. Citizen science projects are taking off. Communication about the developments is arranged by Radboud University and Radboud university medical center, and much of the content is provided by users. The green space, biodiversity, and community will make Radboud University and Radboud university medical center even more attractive places to live, work, and visit.

The Radboud Campus could set the trend as a place for the restoration of the connections between people and nature. Forests and nature contribute to public health. The way in which forests and trees work as green medication is studied widely, nationally and internationally. The positive connection between health and nature can be made visible, such as by creating a place of reflection for patients and their families under a monumental linden tree at Radboud university medical center.

## Nature-Positive Pledge

With its biodiversity pledge, Radboud University has joined an international network of universities that are committed to the restoration of ecosystems. This is an initiative of the United Nations and University of Oxford in support of the negotiations at the Biodiversity COP15 in Montreal in November 2022.

This pledge means that Radboud University wants to play a pioneering role in addressing its own impact and in supporting other institutions on a “nature-positive journey”.

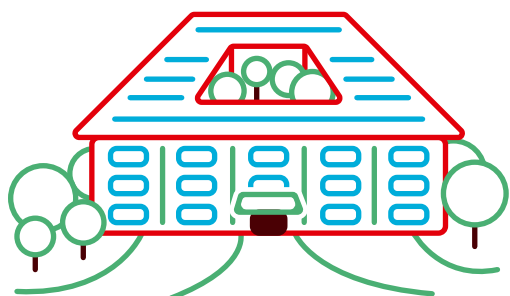
The university has indicated that it wants to start activities such as a biodiversity survey on campus, attention to biodiversity throughout the chain, and organising events on campus to increase awareness.

## Green roofs

The Radboud University technical manual has been updated in relation to the use of green roofs. Other changes are also being prepared with regard to nature-inclusive construction and climate adaptation, following on from the established biodiversity vision. These changes will also impact the Beeldkwaliteitsplan (image quality plan) that both Radboud organisations use for the full layout of the campus, and this will be developed further in 2023.

## Mowing work protocol

A work protocol for mowing has been developed. It establishes locations where rough grass could be created by mowing less and in a different way. This will be included in the Beeldkwaliteitsplan soon. At the same time, feedback will be collected to work out the protocol in further detail. All this is based on the knowledge that not everything can be set out in regulations. For example, last year's long, dry summer required more mowing than planned in several locations as it had resulted in fire hazards.



## 2. Projects & initiatives

The implementation of the policy will be project-based. The project group is looking for a practical translation of the four objectives in the biodiversity policy. The project group members are also open to ideas and initiatives that touch on the biodiversity policy, but are not explicitly mentioned as objectives.

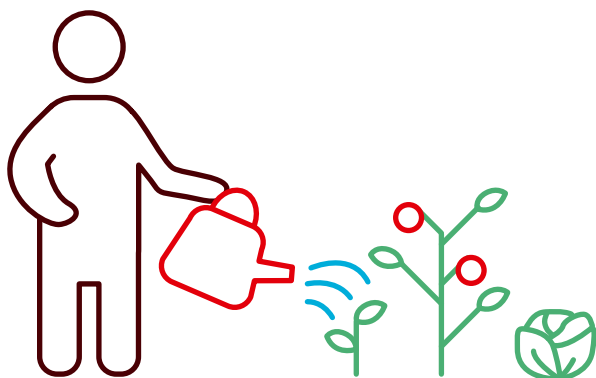


### Replanting of forest

At the start of 2022, the replanting of the forest around the Disveldpad was completed in accordance with the principles of biodiversity and climate adaptation. This part of the forest was cut down in 2020 as drought and the European spruce bark beetle had damaged the trees beyond repair. A work group with local residents and staff members from the university and the hospital created a plan for the new green use of this terrain with many different native trees and shrubs. This plan was adopted. There will now be two types of forest: a park forest to the east of the Gerard Disveldpad and a natural forest that connects to the existing forest to the west of the path.

### Preparation of the Green Corridor and Roman limes

The "Green Corridor" is a citizen's initiative by several Nijmegen neighbourhoods for a walking trail in the railway zone, an initiative that has also been embraced by the Municipality of Nijmegen. From our side, the walking trail along the railway line is obstructed at the site of the Greenhouses and the depot. These obstacles can be resolved by technical means, but there is no budget available yet. The aim is now to take the plan to a higher level by aligning it with the programme for healthy and green exercise. A related project is the proposal for a natural indication of the old Roman road (Driehuizerweg/Toernooiveld). These proposals are included in professor Stephan Mol's larger plan to make the Roman road visible.



### Community garden

At the initiative of several staff members (Campus & Facilities, Academic Affairs, and subsequently HR), work has started on the construction of a vegetable garden, part of a community garden next to the Hortus Nijmegen site. The primary goal is to improve health and vitality. After all, gardening translates to physical activity outdoors, in contact with earth and nature. This will allow staff members and students to disconnect from work and study. In addition to the vegetable garden, more is being developed, such as outdoor work and study areas and possibly outdoor education. The initiators' vision is that the community garden will also become a meeting place for knowledge sharing, where people can learn from each other during both planned and spontaneous meetings.

### Experience/vegetable garden at Radboud university medical center

The Service Department of Radboud university medical center has started the construction of a garden behind the wadi on René Descartesdreef. The garden will offer the opportunity to relax, experiment, sow, and pluck and to meet people in a different setting. The garden will be opened in 2023.

### Green interior walls in the botany greenhouses

The Botany greenhouses on the campus are fully committed to sustainability: for example, they are switching to low-grade heat, solar panels, and LED lighting. There had been a long-standing desire for a green interior wall to spruce up the entrance to the greenhouses. This has been made possible together with the biodiversity project group: the wall was installed by the staff members themselves at the end of 2022. They will also maintain this wall of fully grown houseplants themselves.

It has been agreed that we and the Botany greenhouses can take interested parties to see this example project and that staff members can then discuss the wall.

# 3. Monitoring

**In order to determine the effectiveness of the policy measures, it is important to have an instrument for measuring biodiversity and using it to evaluate and, if necessary, adjust the biodiversity policy.** This involves questions such as: when do you know you have achieved your goal? Is progress falling short? Or are things going rather well? In this regard, the following actions were taken in 2022:



## Biodiversity in practice

The members of the biodiversity project group attended a joint training on biodiversity at IPC/Green Space. Training was provided for working with the Biodiversity Benchmark in order to monitor the policy as needed. We've come to a realisation as well: we have to be patient when intervening with nature. It takes several years for new equilibrium to develop. It also demonstrated that we can rely on the knowledge we already have in house. We are well on our way.

## Biodiversity Benchmark

Together with a group of volunteers, local residents, and students (Biodiversity Sounding Board Group), the Biodiversity Benchmark was used to conduct a monitoring round of the entire site on 3 October. From this, several ideas emerged for further improving the current conditions for biodiversity on our property. It will be possible to implement some of them in 2023.



## Bat spotting with a bat detector

Vita Hommersen and Eric Jansen have been surveying the bats on our campus for the past five years. This monitoring was due to all the construction activity on the southern part of the campus and the exemption to the Nature Conservation Act required for it. Their information allowed the university to determine what mitigation measures were required, such as where and how many bat boxes were to be installed to compensate. With these experts from the Mammalian Society, a round was made one evening in May to spot bats, with the goal of producing an article for the users of our campus.

## Soil animal day

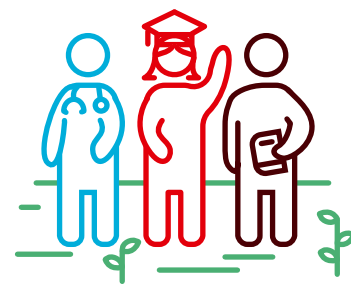
During the national soil animal day on 29 September, a group of volunteers surveyed the Tiny Forest for the soil animals present. The results were: earthworms (13), snail (1), spiders (4), woodlice (3), millipede (3), centipede (1), beetle (9), and ants (over 30). The same was done for the grassy area right beside it. The result there was: ants (more than 10).

The conclusion is that the Tiny Forest is really doing something great for biodiversity. In 2023, the project group will organise more "census" days on campus, such as for birds, bees, and butterflies.

# 4. Stakeholders

**Fortunately, many people are interested in nature and worried about the decline of biodiversity.**

**These range from scientists, students, and staff members to local residents and organisations.** We are happy to involve these people in the policy and its implementation. In 2022, this was done as follows:



## Students

- A student at Radboud University conducted a graduate study on the biodiversity policies of universities in the Netherlands. In June, she delivered her report which includes best practices from the various universities and recommendations for implementing good biodiversity policies.
- Software science students from the Faculty of Science, via GiPHouse, have created an interactive campus sustainability map and walking app that has various walking routes past points of interest. They received study credits for this.
- Information was provided to USC students by doing a campus walk explaining the policies and interventions that have been made.
- USC representatives collaborated on the creation of the Biodiversity Vision by Bureau Stroming.
- In consultation with the national organisation Students for Tomorrow, the theme of biodiversity was added to the SustainaBul questionnaire. With this, all participants (research universities and universities of applied sciences) are assessed on their biodiversity policies.

## Scientists

- Scientists have contributed to the Biodiversity Vision by Bureau Stroming.
- Several scientists are collaborating on a living lab research proposal on acknowledging the rights of nature on the Radboud Campus.



## Biodiversity Sounding Board Group

- The sounding board group met again on 3 November 2022. This group consists of volunteers, students, and local residents who are interested in the biodiversity on campus. In 2021, this group developed a plan for replanting the forest around the Disveldpad, and monitoring was done using the Biodiversity Benchmark. The group also came up with several ideas to further improve the biodiversity.

## Other stakeholders (internal and external)

- In addition to the students and scientists mentioned above, the following have collaborated on the creation of the Biodiversity Vision: representatives from the Radboud Works Councils, Patients' Advisory Council, city ecologist and policy advisor of the Municipality of Nijmegen, Radboud site managers, the university programme director for Sustainability, the Radboud university medical center strategic advisor for sustainability, the Radboud University head of Campus Development, the Radboud university medical center programme manager, the area manager for drinking water company Vitens, species organisations based on campus, representatives from the Brakkenstein neighbourhood council, volunteers from Hortus, volunteers from nature organization IVN, and finally, residents of Sint Annastraat.
- With the Municipality of Nijmegen, the university, Radboud university medical center, and the HAN University of Applied Sciences are working on a joint area vision for the Heyendaal campus. General agreements were made for the layout of the area for the medium (2030) and long term (2040).
- Nationally, collaboration with other universities and universities of applied sciences took place as part of World Biodiversity Day on 22 May. IVN conducted biodiversity tours on all campuses in the Netherlands. Additionally, a joint video about biodiversity was created. #higher education in bloom. Internationally, Radboud University linked in with other universities due to the biodiversity pledge.