

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

# NATURE-POSITIVE WIND AND SOLAR FARMS BY 2030



Climate change and large-scale biodiversity loss are two interconnected global crises. Climate change is one of the five most important drivers of biodiversity loss, which causes carbon emissions and makes our societies more vulnerable to climate change. In addition, the latest research shows that the world cannot be content to simply slow the further loss of natural ecosystems. To bring about a resilient world, we need to prevent climate change, and at the same time enrich biodiversity. This means we will have to change the way we live and do business.



**Biodiversity:**

Biodiversity – the variety of life at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems – is a prerequisite for all life on earth. Healthy ecosystems protect us from natural disasters, provide healthy oceans, ensure the pollination of plants and help maintain a stable climate. The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include four planetary goals (SDGs 6, 13, 14 and 15). Achieving these planetary goals is a basic requirement for all other goals.

In a project area where the endangered species wolf lichen exists, we avoid areas with standing deadwood

**GOAL AND STRATEGY**

By constantly increasing the supply of renewable energy, OX2 is a leader in the transition to a more sustainable future. But it is not enough for us to mitigate climate change. Our expansion of renewable energy should not come at the expense of nature. We have long worked to minimise our negative impact on nature, and are now taking decisive action towards our goal of nature-positive wind and solar farms by 2030. With this focus, our aim is to develop renewable electricity generation that creates significant climate benefits while also benefiting biodiversity. Although we have set our goal for 2030, work is already in progress. Contributing to biodiversity is an important element in all of OX2's wind and solar power projects.

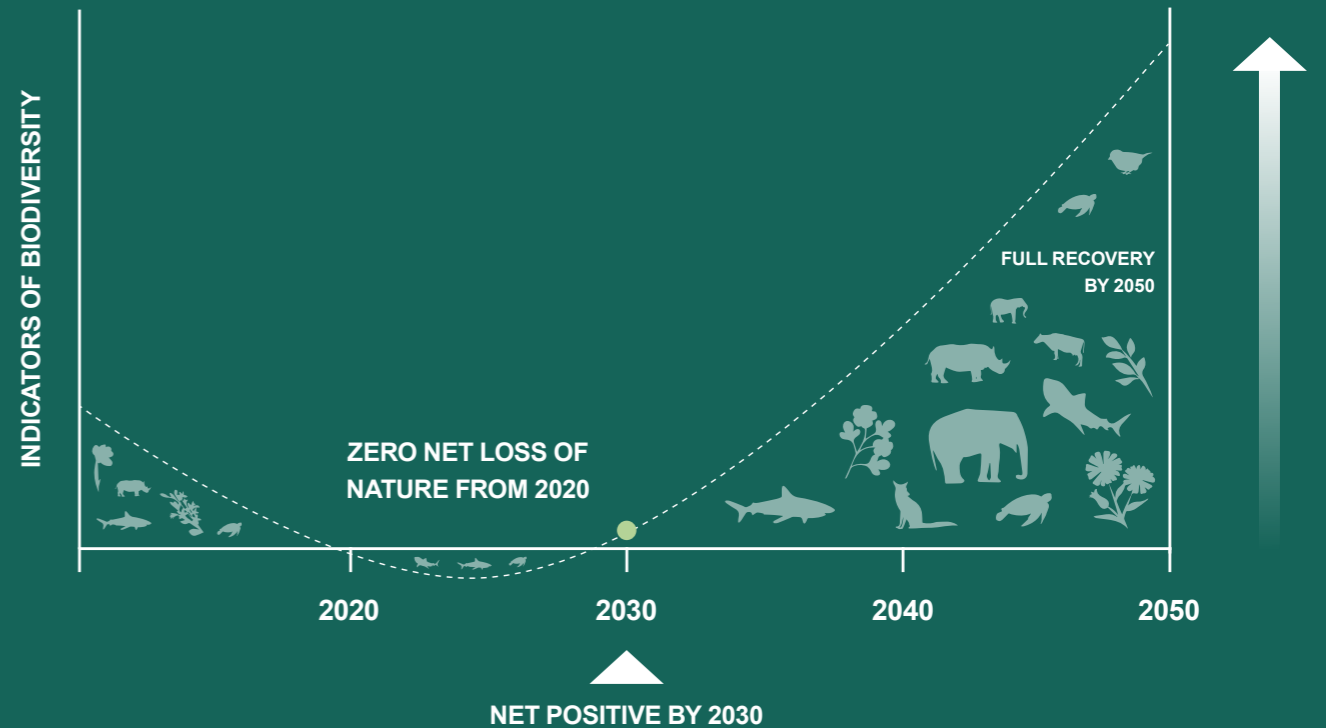
OX2's strategy for achieving the goal is inspired by the Science Based Targets for Nature framework, which is grounded in the latest research. The strategy focuses on managing the impacts over which we have direct control, while contributing to change at a systemic level.

**The strategy encompasses three goal areas:**

- Use the mitigation hierarchy
- Create credibility and transparency around the work on biodiversity
- A nature-positive climate transition

Global goal for nature:

**NATURE-POSITIVE BY 2030**



The Global Goal for Nature identifies the level of ambition needed to achieve a nature-positive world with three measurable temporal objectives: The trajectory of nature positive by 2030. It recognizes some ongoing loss is unavoidable given current trends and identifies the goal of a net improvement to a naturepositive condition by 2030 (from a 2020 baseline) and full recovery by 2050.

Source: A Nature-Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature – in parallel to the UN Climate Convention's "net zero" emissions goal – would commit governments to be nature-positive by 2030 by taking urgent action to halt nature loss now.

Goal area 1:

## USE THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY

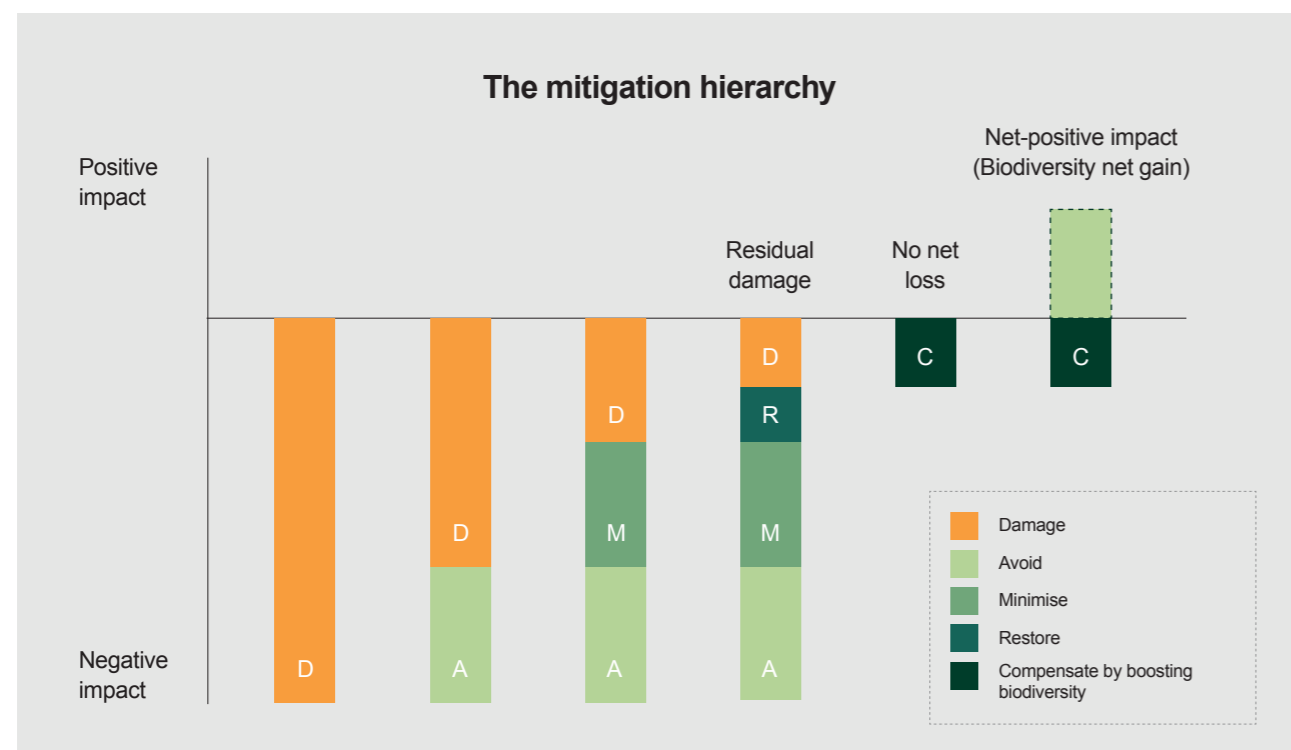
The guiding principle in any new wind or solar farm development should be the mitigation hierarchy. This means that in addition to avoiding, minimising and restoring impacts on nature, we shall also compensate through voluntary biodiversity initiatives to create a net-positive impact on nature. In order to enable appropriate protection and compensation measures, we require accurate investigation data from all of our projects. When acquiring projects developed by another operator, we will develop a plan for both compensation and additional nature conservation measures in the project area.

### Examples of protection and compensation measures

Today, we are already implementing protection and compensation measures in our projects, often in cooperation with ecological experts, ornithologists and non-profit nature organisations. The detailed design of our wind and solar farms takes designated natural assets into account, such as wetlands and sensitive ecosystems. Further measures may include careful relocation of lichens and stones, creation of new migration routes for fish and aquatic animals and creation of new habitats for insects, lichens, mosses and fungi, for example. In order for our offshore wind projects to contribute to increased biodiversity and vibrant marine environments, we are exploring opportunities such as seabed oxygenation and the establishment of mussel and algae beds.



Sub-goal	Strategy to achieve the goal
We will <b>avoid</b> establishing wind and solar farms in areas with high biodiversity sensitivity.	We will develop our screening process to include, as a criterion for selection, the potential for creating net positivity.  Ecological experts must be involved from an early stage in the development process.
We will <b>minimise</b> negative impact by designing and building wind and solar farms taking into account designated natural assets and species.	Planning the detailed design of wind and solar farms will take into account designated natural assets.  We will implement, monitor and develop new mitigation measures, e.g. when crossing watercourses.
We will implement <b>restorative</b> measures to reduce the overall impact on nature.	We will work in a structured way with restorative measures when building our farms.  In the case of management agreements, we will monitor and maintain minimisation and restorative measures based on the control programme established for the operational phase.
We will <b>offset</b> any residual losses according to the goal of not permitting any net loss to arise in or outside project areas. The net effect on nature must be positive.	The need for compensation to achieve net positivity will be investigated and, if necessary, implemented in each project. The amount of compensation will be tailored to each project and to the project area as a whole.  We will involve project stakeholders in identifying positive actions and, if possible, create synergies for biodiversity, climate and/or ecosystem services.





Solar power parks on farmland provide an opportunity to restore species-rich habitats with many flowering species that attract insects.

**Goal area 2:**

## CREATE CREDIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AROUND THE WORK ON BIODIVERSITY

We will report on the overall impact of our operations from a sustainability perspective. However, no standardised method currently exists for measuring biodiversity or impacts, which is needed to provide transparency and credibility regarding the activities we undertake to create nature positivity.

Sub-goal	Strategy to achieve the goal
We will <b>measure, document and communicate</b> the work we do in biodiversity at project level.	For each wind and solar farm, we will document the ways in which we have complied with the mitigation hierarchy and implemented measures to achieve net positivity.
We will report at company level in accordance with a <b>recognised framework</b> .	We will research, identify and implement biodiversity frameworks and models that help us to communicate the impact of our work in a clear and transparent way.
Our employees will have <b>the relevant knowledge and skills</b> to implement biodiversity measures in our wind and solar farms.	We will build knowledge and ensure continuous learning by sharing experiences between projects.

**Goal area 3:**

## A NATURE-POSITIVE CLIMATE TRANSITION

Our expansion of renewable energy should not come at the expense of nature. We will increase our understanding of how to develop renewable electricity generation that creates significant climate benefits, while also promoting biodiversity. In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal SDG 17, on implementation and global partnership, we will work with scientists, our landowners and other external stakeholders to increase understanding of the link between renewable energy and biodiversity. Working with others, we will lead the way towards a nature-positive climate transition.



Sub-goal	Strategy to achieve the goal
We will be at <b>the forefront of</b> understanding the link between increased renewable energy generation and biodiversity.	We will continuously engage in global monitoring to increase our understanding of the impact of the climate transition to renewable energy on biodiversity – and vice versa.
We will <b>share</b> the knowledge we are building up in order to contribute to collaboration in our sector and to increase the general understanding of links between biodiversity and climate.	<p>We will share the knowledge we have gained on this topic through trade associations.</p> <p>We will create forums to share our knowledge and experience of biodiversity with authorities, landowners, suppliers and customers.</p> <p>We will communicate the link between increased renewable electricity generation and enhanced biodiversity in the permit process, and to our customers, to show how the establishment of wind and solar power – with the right location and actions – can have a positive impact on nature.</p>
We will <b>collaborate with</b> scientists, universities and environmental organisations.	<p>In our various markets, we will actively engage with universities, researchers and environmental organisations to establish partnerships.</p> <p>When possible, we will share data from investigations and studies for research.</p>

