

# Get Nature Positive – Monitoring Concept

## 1. Objectives of the monitoring

- Get Nature Positive (GNP) is authorised to monitor the impact of nature projects. This is done in partnership with the project partner or investor
- Monitoring ensures that the improved or newly created habitats are properly maintained and that biodiversity can develop positively as a result. The habitats should be preserved permanently, i.e. for at least 25 years.
- Through the monitoring scheme, GNP and the project partner aim to ensure that the improved or newly created habitats are of the contractually agreed quality.

## 2. Timing of the monitoring

- Monitoring will be carried out at a time when the impact of the project can be assessed, e.g. before the first cutting of flower meadows.
- In the case of nature projects of project partners, GNP will carry out the first monitoring one calendar year after the signing of the Framework Agreement. The second monitoring will normally take place two calendar years after the signing of the Framework Agreement.
- In the case of eligible nature areas owned by investors, the timing of the first monitoring depends on the status of the project. In the case of new construction or total renovation, GNP will carry out the first monitoring after the completion of the green space, but no later than one year after the signing of this Framework Agreement (Variant A). In the case of existing buildings or total refurbishment without changes to the green space, GNP will carry out the first monitoring before the framework agreement is signed (Variant B).
- Further monitoring is generally carried out every five years after the Framework Agreement has been signed. GNP has the right to deviate from these monitoring schedules.

## 3. Auditors

- The person responsible for monitoring - hereinafter referred to as the auditor - does not see himself or herself as a controller, but evaluates the project development objectively and supports the project partner or the investors with his or her expertise. Sanctions are only considered in serious cases (see point 5).
- Suitable auditors are appointed by the GNP to carry out the monitoring.
- The auditors have a good knowledge of the species and a high level of social competence.
  - Auditors of nature projects of project partners also have a good understanding of the agricultural/forestry system.
  - Auditors of investors' eligible nature areas are particularly familiar with the promotion of biodiversity in settlement areas.

## 4. Content of the monitoring of nature projects of project partners

- The auditor makes an appointment with the project partner.
- The auditor informs himself/herself in advance about the contractual nature areas to be verified.
- The project partner shows the auditor how he/she has registered the nature areas in the Swiss agricultural database ('Strukturdatenerhebung').
- The auditor carries out an on-site inspection. The nature areas are inspected as completely as possible. The Quadra GmbH method 'Biotope type mapping 2024' is used as a basis for the assessment. Additional provisions in the project partner contract may apply. The auditor notes the presence of rare species if sighted during the field inspection. The auditor also takes

photographs of each nature area. In the case of decentralised subjects, such as high-stem orchards, a photograph of the entire plantation is sufficient.

- The project partner is present during the field visit and provides information on the management of the sites. He/she informs the auditor of any sightings of special or rare species.
- The person responsible for maintenance receives initial, provisional feedback from the auditor on contract fulfilment and maintenance. Any complaints are mentioned and the causes identified.

## 5. Content of monitorings of investors' eligible nature areas

- For the first monitoring, the auditor arranges a suitable date in advance with the person responsible for the maintenance of the green spaces.
- The auditor informs himself/herself in advance about the contractual nature areas to be verified.
- The auditor carries out an on-site inspection. The nature areas are inspected as completely as possible. The Quadra GmbH method 'Biotope type mapping 2024' is used as a basis for the assessment. Additional provisions in the project partner contract may apply. The auditor notes the presence of rare species if sighted during the field inspection. The auditor also takes photographs of each nature area. In the case of decentralised subjects, such as rows of trees, an overview photograph is sufficient.
- The person responsible for maintaining the green spaces receives initial, provisional feedback from the auditor on contract fulfilment and maintenance. Any complaints are mentioned and the causes identified.
- Further monitoring can take place without a field inspection. GNP contacts the person responsible for the maintenance of the areas and asks him/her to take up-to-date photos of all nature areas mentioned in the contract. The images are compared with the information in the contract and current aerial photographs.
- If there is any doubt about the existence and quality of the nature areas, GNP carries out extraordinary monitoring on site. GNP can also carry out spot checks on site at any time. This monitoring is carried out in the same way as described under point 3.

## 6. Recommendations, complaints and violations

- *Recommendations* are voluntary measures to improve the quality of the nature area. Examples: Leave deadwood on trees; reduce excessive spread of hazel and alder in hedges, better location for nesting aids, etc.
- *Complaints* jeopardise the positive development of a nature area. They lead to binding measures that must be implemented within a set period (max. 1 year). Auditors can issue complaints themselves and set implementation deadlines. Examples: Several newly planted native shrubs or fruit trees die and are not replaced, herbaceous borders are mown too early, hedges are not maintained properly, neophytic plants spread, etc.
- *Violations* lead to the permanent destruction of the nature area and constitute a breach of contract. Auditors report violations to GNP promptly. The decision on sanctions is the responsibility of GNP. Examples: Nature area is built over and not replaced, standard orchard is cleared, meadow is fertilised, ploughed or scarified, old trees are felled without adequate replacement, large-scale herbicide treatments, etc.

**7. Monitoring Report**

- The auditor prepares a monitoring report as soon as possible after the site visit, using the template.
- The report includes in particular:
  - Plan with all contractual nature areas of the project partner
  - Brief description and condition of the individual nature areas
  - Meaningful photos
  - Recommendations, complaints and violations
  - Recommendation for payment of the performance bonus yes/no/after implementation of the measures.
  - Statement on contract fulfilment (yes/no/after implementation of measures). The payment of performance bonuses (project partner) or the suspension or cancellation of the certificate (investor) depends on this.

In the case of nature projects by project partners, species occurrences are also recorded and categorised as 'sighted on site by the auditor' or 'according to information provided by the project partner'.

**8. Publication of the monitoring report**

- The complete monitoring report is sent to the project partner or the investor. The latter can submit suggestions for changes within 2 weeks.
- The final monitoring report is filed permanently by GNP.
- *Nature projects of project partners*: A summary of the monitoring report is published on the GNP website (without the section on Recommendations, complaints and violations).
- *Eligible nature areas of investors*: monitoring reports are not published by GNP.

**9. Performance bonuses for project partners**

- The performance bonus can be paid out to the project partners after each successful monitoring period of 5 years.
- If complaints are identified that affect the development of the nature areas, the performance bonus may be withheld until the issue is resolved.
- If serious violations are identified that impair the conservation of the nature areas permanently, no performance bonus will be paid. In addition, further sanctions may be imposed in accordance with III 2.2 of the framework agreement.