Professional Standards Paper

The impact of real estate on nature

- > Real estate activities impact ecosystems and biodiversity but can also be directed to support and restore nature.
- > Nature-focused regulations and initiatives are emerging across the industry, offering initial frameworks for assessing and managing nature-related risks.
- > Establishing a clear baseline for nature helps identify opportunities to preserve and expand local ecosystems, with onsite habitat restoration as a priority.
- > Nature-positive strategies, such as creating green spaces and sustainable landscaping, help strengthen climate adaptation and can lead to stronger tenant demand and better financial outcomes.

Introduction

Real estate often involves the conversion of natural habitats and biomes into building development areas, which impact ecosystems and biodiversity.¹ In various instances, these developments can also reduce natural resistance mechanisms, such as the ability of wetlands to absorb excess rainfall, increasing vulnerability to flooding and other climate-related risks.

As urban areas continue to expand, effective land use governance and environmental preservation play an important role in shaping the future of nature conservation. Nature is no longer merely a corporate social responsibility issue, but can also represent a strategic opportunity for risk management and value creation.

There are multiple actions the real estate industry can take to address its environmental impact and contribute to nature-positive outcomes. This paper explores the relationship between real estate and nature, focusing on how the industry can shift toward nature-positive strategies. It examines the definition of 'nature' and the impacts of real estate on ecosystems, and how different stages of the building life cycle affect biodiversity. It also looks at how current regulations and voluntary frameworks, like the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), that provide guidance on nature-related risks and opportunities, can be applied to real estate.

Additionally, it highlights the benefits of integrating nature-positive strategies, at both the portfolio and asset levels, showing how asset owners can embrace nature-based solutions to manage risks, enhance biodiversity and improve financial outcomes.



1 The threats emerging from the infrastructure and the built environment system together impact 29% of the IUCN's list of threatened and near-threatened species. Source: World Economic Forum (2020) <u>New Nature Economy Report II: The Future of Nature and Business.</u>

Understanding nature: definitions, regulations, initiatives and certifications

What is nature?

Nature has been defined as the 'natural world, with an emphasis on the diversity of living organisms, including people, and their interactions among themselves and with their environment'.²

More recently, nature has been framed as the construct of four core realms: land, ocean, freshwater and atmosphere.³ These major components of the natural world differ fundamentally in their organisation and function. The four realms provide an entry point for understanding how organisations and people depend, and have impacts, on nature.

How does real estate impact nature?

Activities related to real estate affect habitats and consume natural resources.

While the industry has historically faced challenges in integrating nature and preserving biodiversity, there is a growing recognition of the need for sustainable practices that protect and enhance the natural environment. By using nature's resources responsibly, the real estate sector can help create the necessary conditions for long-term prosperity and development.

As the nature's realms are interconnected, changes in one area often have effects in others, magnifying the overall impact on ecosystems and biodiversity.

Figure 1: Nature's four realms - Land, Ocean, Freshwater and Atmosphere⁴



2 Díaz, S. et al. (2015) The IPBES Conceptual Framework - connecting nature and people.

4 Adapted from TNFD (2023) Recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.

³ The inclusion of atmosphere highlights air quality and the links between climate and nature risks, while acknowledging the role of climate mitigation and adaptation across all realms. Source: SBTN (2023) SBTN Glossary of Terms.

Figure 2 – The four realms of nature, impact of real estate and its relationship with society



Land

This realm encompasses forests, grasslands and agricultural areas that when converted into urban landscapes can lead to habitat loss, soil degradation, and displacement of wildlife.



Ocean

The world's oceans are vital to maintaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting livelihoods through fisheries and tourism. Coastal real estate development can harm marine habitats, increase pollution from runoff and waste, and threaten species survival.



Freshwater

Rivers, lakes and wetlands are crucial sources of drinking water, food and recreation, as well as habitats for diverse species. Real estate development can alter water flows, pollute through construction activities and drain wetlands, reducing water quality and increasing flood and drought risks.



Atmosphere

The atmosphere plays a vital role in regulating climate and air quality, both of which are essential for healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing. Real estate development contributes to greenhouse gas emissions which lead to climate change and poorer air quality.

ŶĨŶĨ

Society

Human societies are both drivers and beneficiaries from real estate development, as it supports housing, infrastructure and economic opportunities. Nevertheless, unbalanced expansion can bring social challenges such as displacement of communities and loss of cultural heritage. Sustainable development practices that consider the needs of both people and nature are necessary for creating resilient and inclusive communities.

When looking at the stages of a property's life cycle (planning and design, construction, use and end-of-life), each can have an influence on biodiversity and ecosystems through a number of drivers.⁵



Planning and design

Decisions made at this stage about land use and design determine the building's environmental footprint. Choices about land preservation or development can impact natural habitats, if not planned sustainably.



Construction process stages

As development begins, it changes the natural state of the land and demands raw materials which, if overexploited, disrupt ecosystems and habitats. Construction activities also release carbon emissions, harming biodiversity.



Use stages⁶

During the building's operational phase, energy and water consumption contribute to greenhouses gas emissions and pollution. Inefficient waste management policies and landscaping practices also influence soil, water, and biodiversity.



End-of-life stages

In the final phase, decisions about demolition and redevelopment can further disrupt habitats if not managed sustainably. Improper disposal of building materials, failing to recycle, or sourcing new materials for redevelopment can produce greenhouse gas emissions and add to environmental contamination.



5 See for more detail: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (n.d.) Models of drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem change.

6 The in-use stages cover the operational life of the building, including maintenance, repairs and replacements that are needed to keep the building functional and up to date.

Overview of regulations and nature frameworks

In recent years, governments have begun incorporating nature considerations into policies and regulations, increasing awareness and

Despite the growing prevalence of nature frameworks, their adoption remains gradual, as the majority of organisations are still developing the necessary understanding, commitment and measurement tools. encouraging implementation of nature-focused frameworks and disclosure of biodiversityrelated risks and opportunities.

However, despite the growing prevalence of nature frameworks, their adoption remains gradual, as the majority of organisations are still developing the necessary understanding, commitment and measurement tools. A list of common regulations, voluntary frameworks and certifications within the real estate industry can be found in the <u>Appendix</u> including TNFD, the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) and the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regulation. The latter was recently made mandatory in the UK. Managing UK BNG obligations to benefit communities



Real estate funds can tackle BNG requirements in the UK by creating a biodiversity bank, converting unused land into a habitat supporting local wildlife and generating BNG credits. This approach highlights real estate's potential to blend development with ecological benefits.

Read case studies here.



Portfolio level strategies to incorporate nature

The impacts of real estate developments can be improved by adopting sustainable practices, using regulatory frameworks as a starting point. Moving beyond compliance, asset owners can take the opportunity to engage positively with the natural environment and unlock benefits.



What are the benefits of naturepositive strategies?

The goal of nature-positive strategies is to ensure new developments and existing buildings not only limit their environmental impact but also support nature's recovery and resilience.

This is fundamental for ensuring that cities can thrive in future economic conditions, as natural resources become scarcer and extreme weather events occur more frequent. These strategies include:

- Preserving and enhancing biodiversity by integrating green spaces, natural habitats and sustainable landscaping.
- > Utilising nature-based solutions (NbS) to adapt to climate change effects, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, while delivering ecological benefits.
- Applying the mitigation hierarchy: avoiding harm, reducing negative impacts, restoring ecosystems and offsetting residual damage (see page <u>10</u>).

In addition to promoting biodiversity and resilience, nature-positive strategies can lower maintenance costs by using sustainable materials and landscaping that require less upkeep. Collaboration between companies, city planners and municipalities helps ensure developments align with broader sustainability goals, supporting more integrated and resilient urban planning.

Adaptation of buildings is required for addressing the effects of climate change, and integrating nature-based strategies can help reduce climate-related risks.

In addition, showing the value of nature, like longterm benefits and potential return on investment, can help strengthen the business case for incorporating NbS into investment strategies.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are 'solutions inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions'.

European Commission. (n.d.) Research and Innovation. <u>Nature-based solutions.</u>

Figure 3 – The benefits of nature-based solutions (NbS)

Preserve and enhance biodiversity

- Integrate green spaces, natural habitats and sustainable landscaping.
- Support the recovery and resilience of ecosystems.

Nature-based solutions in real estate

Climate change adaptation

- Mitigate climate change impacts (eg flooding, extreme temperatures).
- Provide ecological benefits (eg cleaner air, water filtration)

Economic benefits

- Enhance property demand and overall value.
- Retain occupiers and improve wellbeing.
- Align with sustainability goals to attract investors.
- Lower maintenance costs (eg sustainable materials and landscaping require less upkeep).
- Long-term cost savings.

Several studies⁷ have examined the links between urban green spaces and higher residential values, while Green infrastructure (GI) features, such as rooftop gardens, are seen as attractive to residents and can offer increased functionality.⁸

Real estate owners embracing these practices are better positioned to meet future regulatory requirements and address challenges such as rising energy prices and more extreme weather events. **Green infrastructure (GI)** has been defined as 'a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity'.

European Commission. (n.d.) Environment. <u>Green infrastructure.</u> Collaborative planning

- City planners, companies, and municipalities working together.
- Ensures developments meet broader sustainability goals.

Extension of green features on existent assets

Asset owners are leveraging nature to expand green features of current buildings such as adding green roofs with local grassland, with native plants and beehives. These eco-friendly designs help manage rainwater, reduces heat, and supports biodiversity.

Read case studies here.

7 Ramírez-Juidías, E. et al. (2022) Influence of the Urban Green Spaces of Seville (Spain) on Housing Prices through the Hedonic Assessment Methodology and Geospatial Analysis; Liebelt, V. et al. (2019) Urban Green Spaces and Housing Prices: An Alternative Perspective.

8 Mell, I. C., Henneberry, J., Hehl-Lange, S., & Keskin, B. (2016) To green or not to green: Establishing the economic value of green infrastructure investments in The Wicker, Sheffield. Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, 18, 257–267.

Structuring the approach

When using nature-based solutions at the portfolio level, industry-recognised frameworks like TNFD can help organisations identify, assess, manage, and disclose, as relevant, nature-related risks and opportunities. In addition to reporting, TNFD can be used as a guide, focusing on four key areas: governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets.

For each area, managers and investors should determine which aspects are most relevant to the portfolio and where the framework can provide useful, actionable insights.

The TNFD recommendations provide organisations of all sizes with a risk management and disclosure framework to identify, assess, manage and, where appropriate, disclose nature-related issues.

Figure 4 – TNFD's recommended disclosures⁹

Governance	Strategy
The organisation's governance around nature- related risks and opportunities.	Actual and potential impacts of nature-related risks and opportunities on the organisation's business strategy and financial planning, where such information is material.
Risk Management	Metrics and Targets
Risk Management How the organisation identifies, assesses and manages nature-related risks.	Metrics and Targets Metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant nature-related risks and opportunities where such information is material.

TNFD is expanding its guidance to provide more specific tools for real estate, with one of the key starting points being its LEAP framework.¹⁰ This approach can help asset owners better understand the nature risks and opportunities associated with each asset and how these insights can be aggregated at portfolio level. It can be summarised as follows:

 Locate the interfaces with nature across geographies, sectors and value chains;

- > Evaluate dependencies and impacts on nature;
- Assess nature-related risks and opportunities within the organisation; and
- Prepare to respond to nature-related risks and opportunities, including reporting and disclosure on material nature-related issues, to the primary users of financial reports and other stakeholders, aligned with the TNFD framework.

9 Adapted from TNFD (2023) Recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.

¹⁰ While the new guidance for real estate offers a solid foundation, simpler metrics and tailored recommendations for smaller entities can further improve its practicality for the sector – read here INREV's response to TNFD (2024) <u>Draft sector guidance</u>, Engineering, construction and real estate consultation.

Nature and climate adaptation

Building the business case for nature involves examining the portfolio's physical climate risk screening results and identifying where nature-based opportunities can be used to address climate risk. For example, if the portfolio includes assets at risk of heat stress, NbS such as trees and green roofs can help cool the buildings. Additionally, trees providing shade and green roofs can help lower interior temperatures through evaporation and transpiration. Sustainable urban drainage systems, such as raingardens and swales, can also mitigate stormwater flooding by managing surface water more naturally.

See <u>page 11</u> for more details on asset-level measures.

Setting a nature baseline

A nature baseline offers a broader view by detailing the types of trees, plants and wildlife onsite. However, it may not quantify the level of biodiversity, focusing instead on habitat types. To support wildlife, the species present onsite, nearby, and those that visit should be examined. This can be done by creating a biodiversity baseline for the portfolio, reviewing each asset.

A biodiversity baseline provides information on the extent and quality of different habitats onsite for an asset and across the portfolio. This can be quantified into biodiversity units to enable a comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity.¹¹

The following steps can be used for developing a nature baseline for an existing asset portfolio:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	•	Step 6	Step 7
Identify which areas of each building are controlled by the asset owner and occupier.	Identify the climate risks the buildings face, such as extreme weather or temperature changes, to find vulnerabilities and improve resilience.	Assess how the portfolio and its assets affects local nature and biodiversity. For example, a hotel may affect local water sources more than a residential building due to its operational nature.	Identify any national or local natural areas, like protected zones or habitats, and consider factors like water stress, soil quality, and pollution. Take into account whether the site is in a rural or urban setting.	Look for ways to improve nature on the site.		Create a list of NbS interventions for investment teams to implement across the portfolio. These can range from small interventions, like ensuring window box planting is pollinator friendly, to more substantial interventions such as rain gardens, green walls, green roofs or wildflower planting areas. This list gives investment teams flexibility to choose the intervention that best suits	Monitor and report to investors and other stakeholders on nature- related risks and opportunities.

11 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) Biodiversity Metric: Calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project or development.

Certain actions will require a collaborative approach with multiple stakeholders (government, experts, landowners, residents and local communities). For example, citizen science can be engaged in the process monitoring, using volunteers for wildlife surveys.

Based on this analysis, certain actions will require a collaborative approach with multiple stakeholders (government, experts, landowners, residents and local communities). For example, citizen science can be engaged in the monitoring process, using volunteers for wildlife surveys. However, it cannot replace a qualified ecologist, who is needed to assess biodiversity, evaluate effects on ecosystems, and develop appropriate nature strategies. Ecologists will also monitor changes in biodiversity over time, ensuring that the data collected through citizen science initiatives is both accurate and meaningful.

Citizen science actively involves the public in scientific research that generates new knowledge or understanding, and thus has the potential to bring together science, policy makers, and society as a whole in an impactful way.

TU Delft (n.d.) What is Citizen Science?

Mitigation hierarchy

Organisations can apply the proximity principle for habitat restoration across their asset portfolio. This means that onsite gains should be prioritised, with offsite actions only considered when onsite options are not feasible. Some jurisdictions have statutory methods in place to manage the implementation of a mitigation hierarchy and to achieve net gain. This results in the following mitigation hierarchy¹²:

- Avoid: Implement measures to prevent impacts from the start, by carefully planning building placement (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts). For example, by avoiding sites that could negatively affect wildlife habitats or protected ecological areas.
- Reduce or minimise: Reduce the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts) that cannot be completely avoided, as far as is practically feasible. This can include using quieter construction methods to minimise noise pollution during wildlife breeding seasons, thus reducing the influence on the species concerned.
- Rehabilitate/Restore: Restore ecosystems degraded or cleared by unavoidable impacts. Actions may include replanting native vegetation to stabilise ecosystems and prevent further soil erosion.

- Offset: Compensate for any significant residual, adverse effects that cannot be avoided, minimised or restored, aiming for no net loss or preferably a net gain of biodiversity. Offsets may involve restoring degraded habitats or protecting areas at risk of biodiversity loss.
- Compensation: Measures to recompense, make good or pay damages for loss of biodiversity caused by a project that can fall short of achieving no net loss or a net gain. This may occur if biodiversity losses and gains have been quantified but conservation actions are insufficient or long-term implementation is not feasible. Compensation may include payments for research, training, or capacity building, although these do not directly lead to measurable conservation outcomes on the ground.

Biodiversity assessment across the portfolio

 \bigotimes

Investors are starting to conduct biodiversity risk assessment across their real estate portfolio, mapping sensitive areas and prioritising conservation. This proactive approach can strengthen sustainable investment practices, balancing ecosystem health with financial goals.

Read case studies here.

Asset level measures

The incorporation of GI or NbS within the built environment delivers a wide range of ecosystem services. At the asset level, the mitigation hierarchy can serve as a guide for actions to reduce environmental impacts. Practical measures that can be applied throughout the building's life cycle to promote nature-positive outcomes include:



Planning and design

- Sustainable design: Integrate from the outset eco-friendly materials such as green walls, passive solar design and high-performance insulation to reduce environmental impact and operational costs. Minimise the building's footprint by building up rather than out, aligning with sustainable design principles.
- Site-specific biodiversity: Set a nature and biodiversity baseline to assess the existing biodiversity level (see page 9), and guide planning for native plantings, green roofs and habitat-friendly landscaping. Consider bird-safe design elements to protect avian species and integrating parks or natural areas to support wildlife.



Construction process stages

- Resource optimisation: Use recycled or biodegradable materials with low embodied carbon (see INREV's embodied carbon related paper) to reduce environmental impacts.
- Green infrastructure: Incorporate GI features such as bioswales, green roofs and walls to manage stormwater and improve thermal performance. Ensure that renewable energy installations, eg solar panels, are wildlife-friendly.



Use stages¹³

- Operational sustainability: Adopt sustainable maintenance practices and engage tenants in sustainable behaviours. These include adopting water-saving fixtures, energy-efficient lighting and banning harmful products.
- Ongoing resource efficiency: Upgrade fixtures, optimising energy use and reducing waste during renovations to maintain asset's sustainability over time.

- Biodiversity enhancements: Regularly reassess and improve biodiversity measures like adding green roofs or planting more native trees.
- Climate risk management: Implement tailored adaptation strategies, such as natural flood barriers and cooling systems, to address location-specific climate risks.



End-of-Life stages

- Sustainable redevelopment: Prioritise NbS that align with broader environmental contexts, when planning for asset end-oflife or redevelopment. Incorporate strategies such as improving soil quality, expanding GI and enhancing biodiversity.
- Carbon sequestration opportunities: Utilise site from demolished asset to increase nature's ability as a carbon sink by improving soil quality and expanding tree shades.

The incorporation of GI or NbS within the built environment delivers a wide range of ecosystem services.

13 The in-use stages cover the operational life of the building, including maintenance, repairs and replacements that are needed to keep the building functional and up to date.



Figure 5 – Selected nature-positive strategies at the asset level¹⁴

Biodiversity initiatives



Investment managers are transforming older buildings into biodiversity-friendly spaces with wildflowers, native trees, and habitat creation. These projects combine ecology functional design, enhancing local wildlife and community appeal.

Read case studies here.

14 Adapted from ULI (2022) Nature positive and net zero: The ecology of real estate.

Conclusions

The real estate industry has a key role to play in global biodiversity and can influence either its restoration or decline. As urban areas expand and natural habitats shrink, stakeholders in the built environment, including real estate investors and investment managers, have the opportunity to adopt nature-positive strategies. By integrating these solutions, the sector can reduce its environmental impact and promote ecosystem preservation.

Such an approach offers long-term benefits including stronger occupier demand and better wellbeing, potential higher rents, and increased overall value. Developments that incorporate nature-positive practices also provide climate resilience, improve air and water quality, reduce energy consumption, and enhance the natural habitat.

Given the link between declining biodiversity and climate change, addressing both issues together can strengthen resilience in the built environment. As investors and regulators increasingly recognise the value of nature, integrating nature-based solutions into real estate investments represents an important step toward building a sustainable and resilient future.



Appendix: Examples of frameworks, regulations and certifications focused on nature/ biodiversity

Appendix 1. Regulations and voluntary frameworks

A non-exhaustive list of the most prevalent frameworks and regulations is provided here:

Frameworks and regulations	Description		
Global Level			
Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	The TNFD is an international initiative that aims to develop a framework for integrating nature-related risks and opportunities into financial decision-making. Similar to the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), the TNFD seeks to encourage financial institutions to assess and disclose their dependencies and impacts on nature.		
Science-Based Targets Network	The SBTN is a global initiative that assists companies in setting science-based targets (SBTs) for biodiversity. Similar to the Science-Based Targets initiative for climate change, SBTN provides methodologies and guidance for companies to align their business operations with biodiversity conservation goals.		
Global Reporting Initiative	The GRI is an international organisation that provides standardised guidelines for sustainability reporting. It includes biodiversity considerations by requiring organisations to disclose their impacts on ecosystems, species, and natural habitats.		
European Level			
Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation	The SFDR requires financial market participants and advisors to disclose how they integrate sustainability risks, including biodiversity, into their investment decision-making processes. It aims to promote transparency and accountability in financial markets regarding environmental impacts, including biodiversity loss.		
EU Taxonomy	The EU Taxonomy is a classification system that defines environmentally sustainable economic activities and includes biodiversity as a key criterion. It requires that activities contributing to sustainability must not significantly harm biodiversity and ecosystems.		

Frameworks and regulations	Description
National Level	
Biodiversity Net Gain	In February 2024, the UK launched its Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation, which legally requires all new developments to achieve a 10% net gain in biodiversity. This ensures that habitats are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development. The Biodiversity Net Gain or Loss is calculated using the difference between the pre-development and post development habitat data.
Article 29 Loi Énergie-Climat (LEC)	Article 29 of the LEC requires financial institutions and large companies in France to disclose their climate-related and biodiversity-related risks and impacts. By mandating detailed reporting, it encourages companies to integrate biodiversity considerations into their strategies and operations, fostering better environmental stewardship.
Zero Artificialisation Nette of French Climate and Resilience Act	This regulation aims to achieve net zero artificialisation by 2050 and requires French territories to reduce the rate of artificialisation and consumption of natural, agricultural and forestry areas by 50% by 2030, compared with the consumption measured between 2011 and 2020.

Appendix 2. Certifications

A non-exhaustive list of biodiversity-focused certifications in Europe is provided here:

Certifications	Description
BiodiverCity	The BiodiverCity® certification is a French initiative that promotes the integration of biodiversity into urban development projects. It focuses on enhancing and protecting local ecosystems within construction and renovation projects.
Effinature	The Effinature certification is a French program that assesses and promotes biodiversity and ecological management in urban and suburban areas. It focuses on creating green spaces that support local wildlife and sustainable environmental practices.
EcoJardin	The EcoJardin certification is a French program that promotes sustainable gardening practices and emphasises biodiversity and ecological management. It encourages gardeners to create spaces that support local wildlife and environmental conservation.
Stiftung Natur und Wirtschaft	This Swiss certification focuses on integrating nature and biodiversity into properties. It promotes the creation and maintenance of natural habitats in urban and industrial areas to support local wildlife.

Certifications	Description
BREEAM	BREEAM is a sustainability assessment method that includes criteria for biodiversity protection as part of its broader environmental performance evaluation. While not mandatory for all certification levels, incorporating biodiversity measures in BREEAM assessments can improve a property's overall sustainability rating.
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)	LEED certification considers biodiversity by encouraging sustainable site development and the preservation of natural habitats. It awards credits for strategies that protect and restore biodiversity, such as conserving existing natural areas and creating new ones.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen (DGNB)	DNGB is a German organisation that promotes sustainable building practices through its certification system. DNGB considers biodiversity by evaluating buildings and developments based on their effect on ecosystems, biodiversity conservation measures, and integration of green spaces and natural habitats.
Haute Qualité Environnementale (HQE)	HQE is a French certification system that emphasises high environmental quality in buildings and urban developments. HQE considers biodiversity by assessing projects based on their integration of green spaces, habitat preservation, and biodiversity enhancement measures.

Disclaimer: The description is obtained from public sources of information. INREV does not accept liability for the accuracy, completeness, or reliance on the information contained in this appendix.