

NPU STUDENT AMBASSADOR

TOOLKIT 1: NATURE POSITIVE

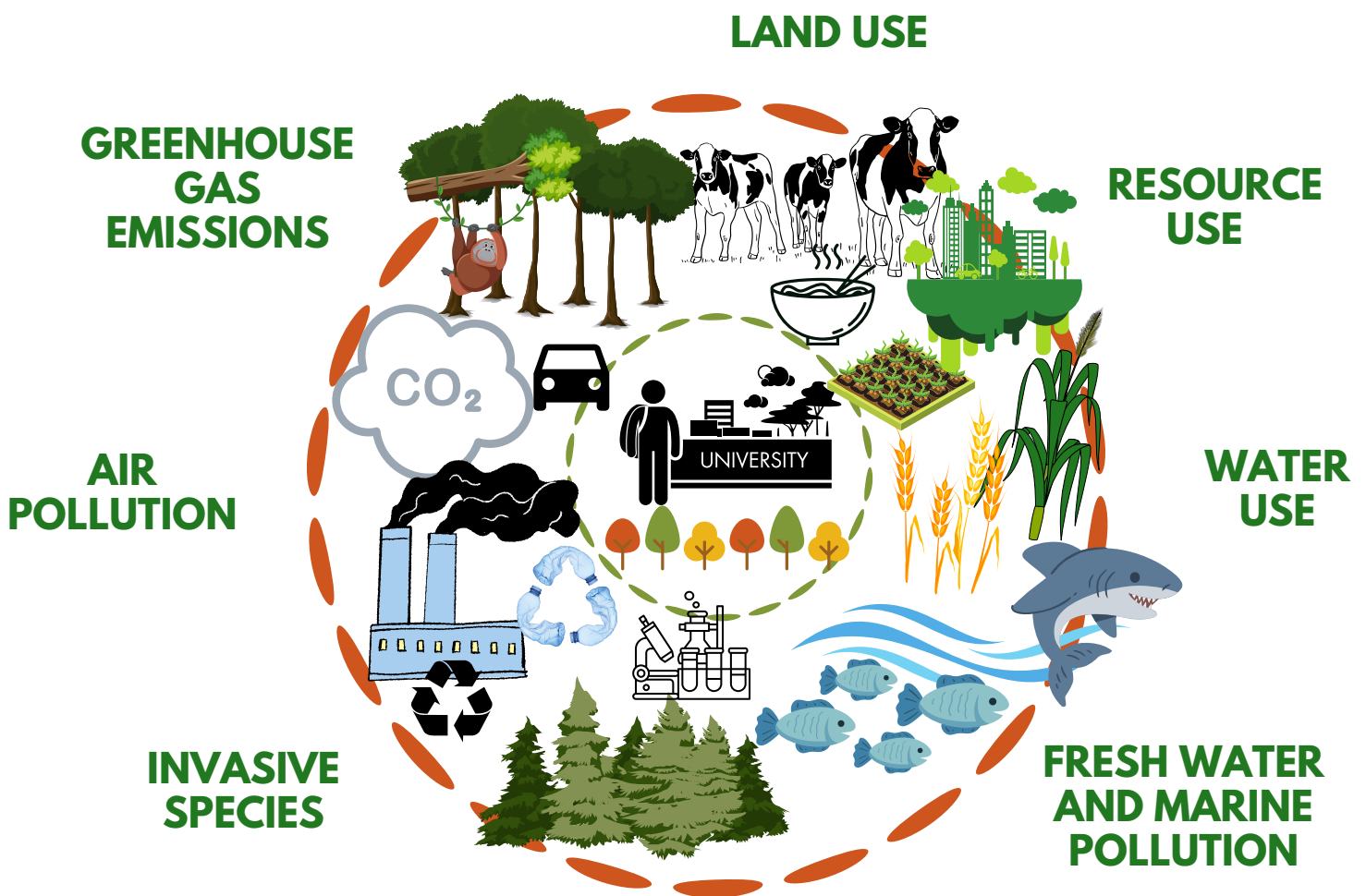


**NATURE
POSITIVE
BY 2030**

What are the global pressures on biodiversity?

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) lists the five main direct drivers of biodiversity loss as the following:

- Land use change (eg. conversion of forest to agriculture)
- Direct exploitation of resources (eg. fishing)
- Climate change
- Pollution (especially fresh water and marine impacts)
- Invasive species

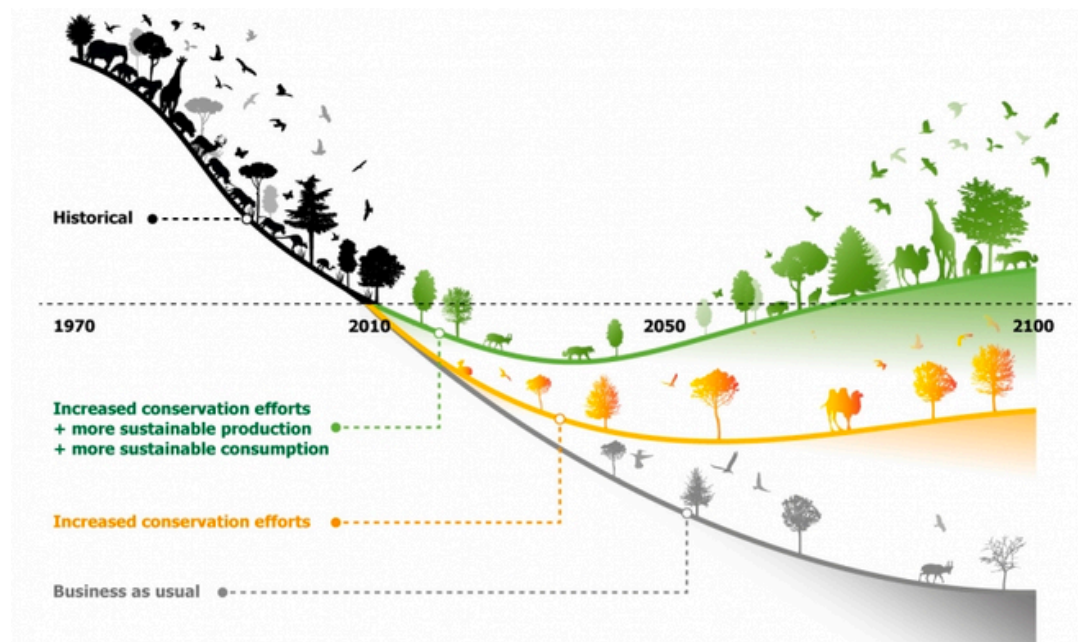


A university's key impacts on nature

Why take action for nature?

We depend on nature for our survival, and nature depends on us.

Over the last 50 years humans have continued to exploit resources at an unsustainable rate, leading to rapid global heating, loss of species and degraded ecosystems.



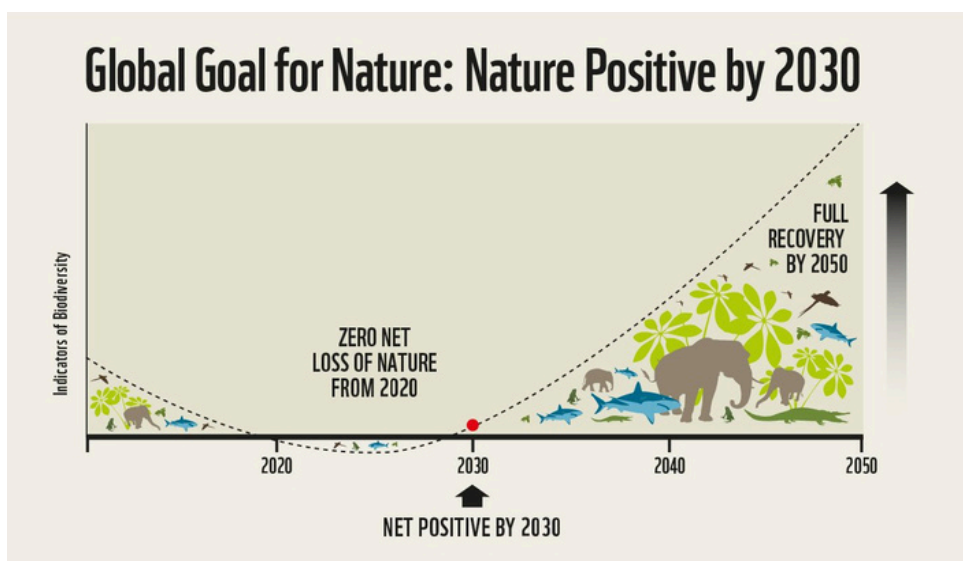
LECLERE ET AL (2020) BENDING THE CURVE ON TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY LOSS

The black line on the above graph represents the historical trajectory of biodiversity loss and models different future scenarios.

The grey line represents 'business as usual' - with biodiversity continuing to decline. The yellow line represents increased conservation efforts such as more protected areas, and the green line represents considerable efforts put into conservation combined with more sustainable production and consumption, achieving restored species populations and ecosystems, the nature positive goal.

What does Nature Positive mean?

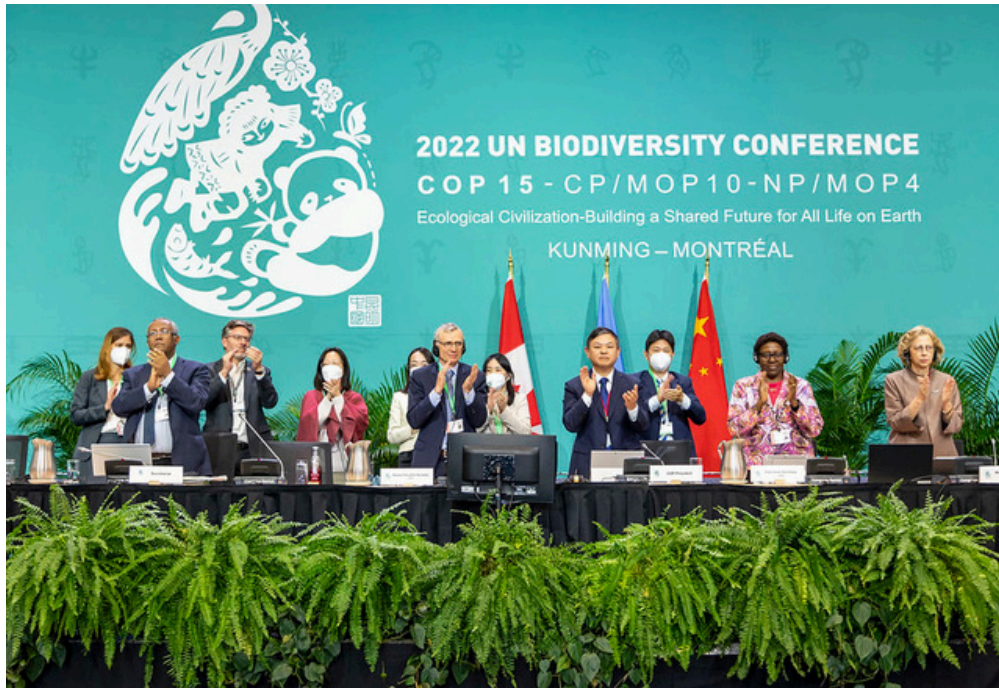
Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland, states that to be Nature Positive, institutions must develop a measured biodiversity baseline, timeframe, a target, clear actions, analysis of how actions add up, monitoring and transparent reporting (Milner-Gulland, 2022).



Setting and meeting ambitious targets for nature is vital to protecting life on earth and ensuring a liveable planet for future generations.

There are many factors outside of our spheres of influence that require a global transformation to enable truly nature-positive outcomes. For this reason there is growing consensus that companies or organisations cannot individually claim to be nature positive, rather that they are ‘contributing towards’ or beginning a journey towards the global nature-positive goal. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature-positive>

Why take action for nature?



In December 2022, at the UN Convention of Biological Diversity Conference of Parties, COP15, world governments and civil society came together and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted. The overarching mission was to “halt and reverse biodiversity loss” realised through 23 targets.

We all have a part to play in bringing this framework to life. The definition of **Nature Positive**, and our mission at NPU, are aligned with that of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

We believe that universities can use their power and influence to help lead their communities on a Nature Positive journey, uniting both the climate and biodiversity crises to build more resilient ecosystems, help nature recover and limit climate change.

Nature Positive Initiative



Working together...

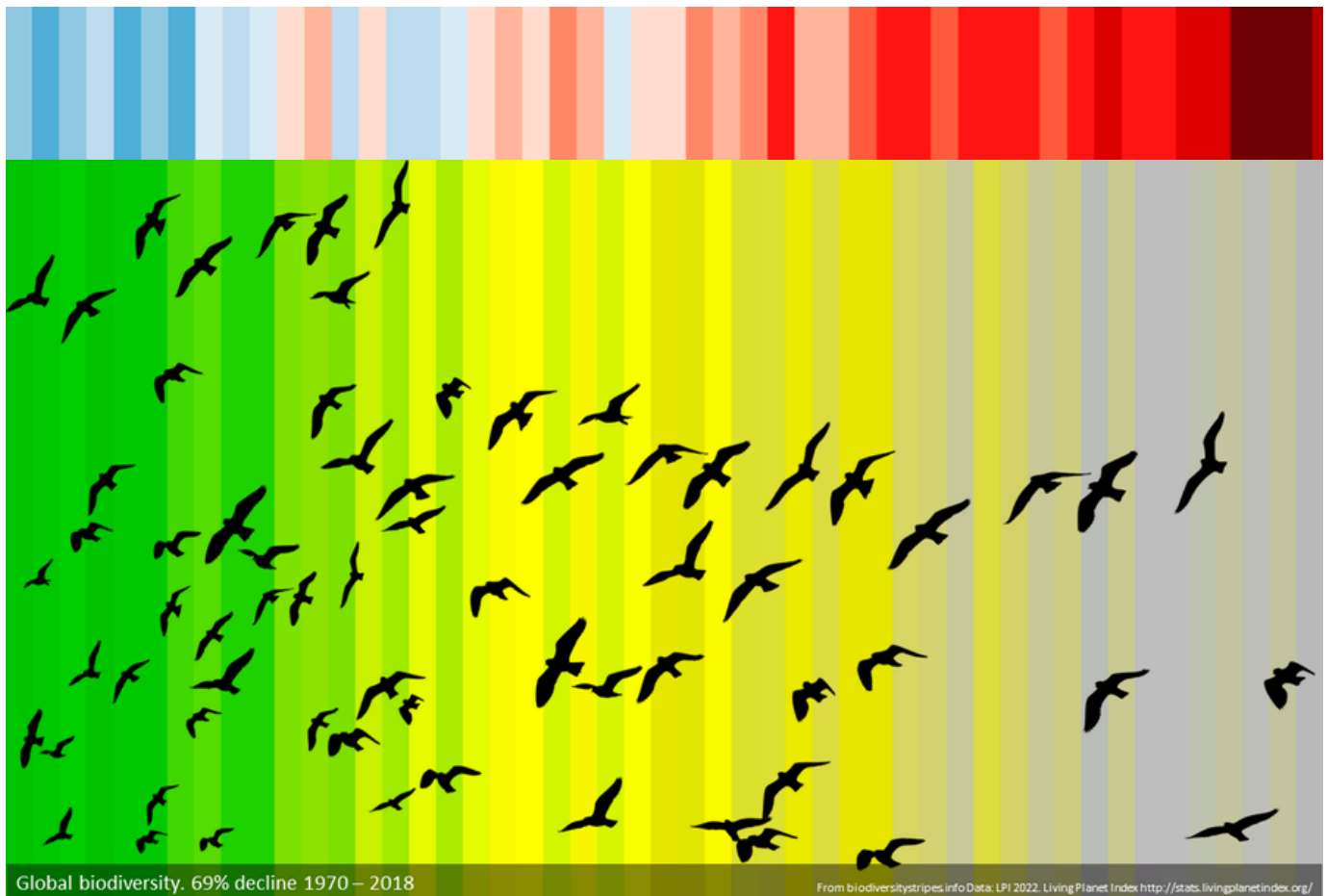
At NPU, we are one of the core members of the Nature Positive Initiative - a coalition of 27 of the world's largest conservation organisations, institutes, indigenous groups and business and finance organisations working together towards a shared nature-positive goal.

NATURE POSITIVE INITIATIVE



Members of NPU are welcome to join the Nature Positive Initiative Forum to stay up to date with latest work in this area.

Communicating Nature Positive



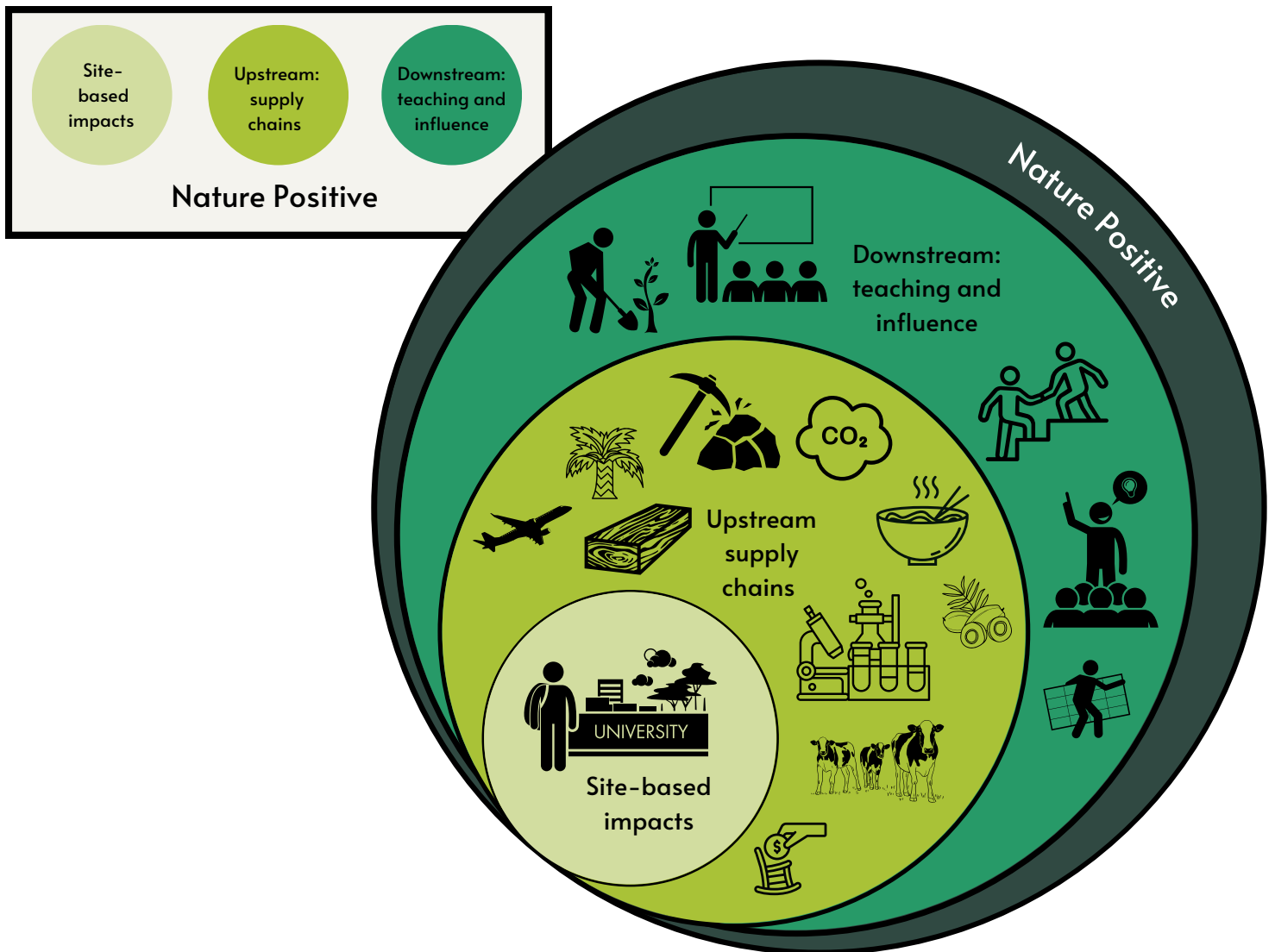
CLIMATE STRIPES - UNIVERSITY OF READING, DATA: MET OFFICE
BIODIVERSITY STRIPES - UNIVERSITY OF DERBY, DATA: WWF LIVING PLANET INDEX

The red and blue stripes above represent global average temperatures over the last 50 years, as recorded by the MET office, compared to the long term average. It is clear to see the rapid heating taking place through this time period.

In parallel below, the green, yellow and grey stripes represent data from the WWF Living Planet Index representing species populations of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. The green to grey represents a loss of almost 70% of biodiversity over the same time period.

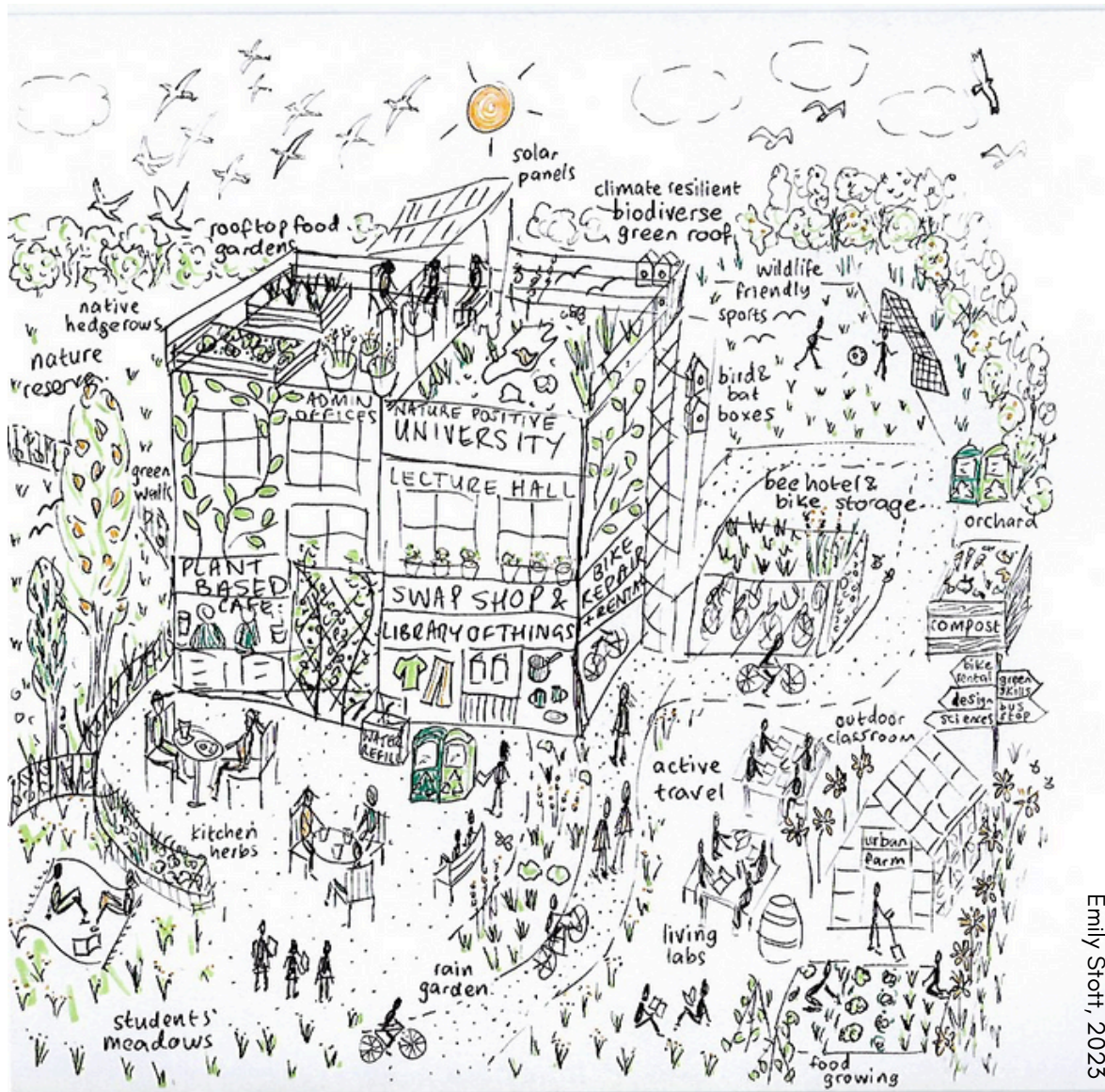
What is a university's footprint on nature?

Biodiversity impacts at a university can be **site-based** relating to campus land management and construction, **upstream** related to supply chains of products and services used by the university, or **downstream** related to research, teaching and community outreach.



For a university, we define being **nature positive** as restoring the species and ecosystems that have been harmed by the impacts of the university and its activities and enhancing the university's positive impacts on nature.

A Nature Positive Universities vision



Whilst much of the framing for a nature positive goal comes from science and modelling, to rethink our societies, economies and campuses in line with a nature positive goal will require people with design, creativity and communications skills as well as collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving and shifts in our habits and values. We believe there is a role for everyone, and value all of your insights and perspectives.

What are Ambassador actions?

As a Nature Positive Universities Ambassador, we want you to help make Nature Positive change in your university. The actions in our toolkits are designed to provide inspiration for what you might like to do in your role, although we don't want to be prescriptive, and we encourage you to take the approach that you think will work best.

Each of these toolkits relate to a specific workshop theme within this year's programme and include suggested actions that you might want take within that month or throughout your time as an Ambassador.

This first Toolkit following our kick-off meeting contains two action themes, which we'd love you to work towards over the next two months, even if you just take a small step for each (more detail on the following pages):

ACTIONS:

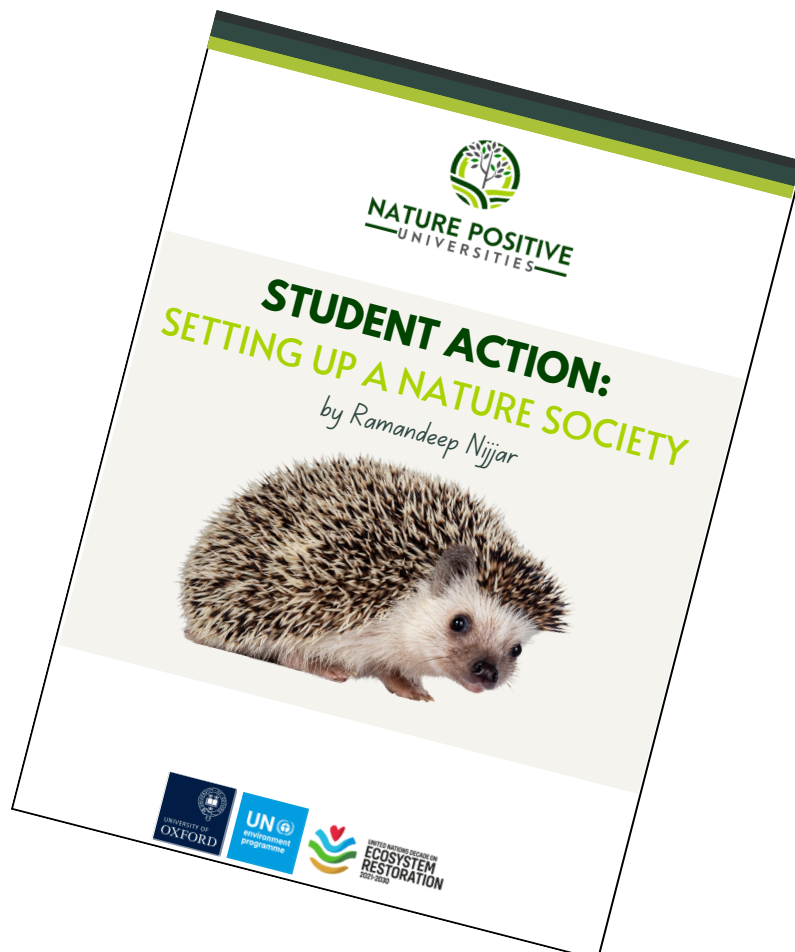
- 1. Collaborate and find support** - exploring the ways of working at your institution, and mapping out who you might work with
- 2. Creative response to Nature Positive** - exploring what nature positive means, the climate and biodiversity stripes, and how you might communicate these concepts.

1

Collaborate and find support

It is easier to achieve things by working with others - we strongly recommend building a small team, or networking with staff or students at your university to help support you with your activities. We have some suggestions to help:

- Take steps to establish an NPU group for your campus (if one doesn't already exist). One of our previous student ambassadors, Ramandeep has written a great guide to share her experience - you can download it on the NPU website www.naturepositiveuniversities/student-resources



1

Collaborate and find support

- Consider finding a mentor - someone who you can ask questions to and guide you - this could be a tutor, lecturer, friend or member of an environment group who can share their experience
- Student groups - it may be that your student union can offer support or that there are existing student groups focused on climate or nature that are worth collaborating with and inviting to work together
- Don't forget to introduce yourself to your fellow students here at NPU! Introduce yourself in the [NPU WhatsApp chat](#) and share your ideas with your global peers!

We invite you to create a list or map of people (or resources) that may be able to help you take action for nature in your campus setting and follow up with some practical steps you can take to be in contact with them.



People to support::

- Emily, Hollie and Favour (NPU)
- Other student ambassadors
- Sustainability officer
- Lecturer
- Friend in NGO
- Students union

2

Creative response to Nature Positive!

Following the initial information provided in Workshop 1, including the graphs and links about NPU and the Nature Positive definition, we'd like to invite you to creatively explore the following questions:

“What does “Nature Positive” mean to you?”

“What might a nature-positive university look like?”

You could:

- Make a short video to say what Nature Positive means to you. This could be sharing something you have learned, or exploring a vision of what it might mean in practice.



2

Creative response to Nature Positive!

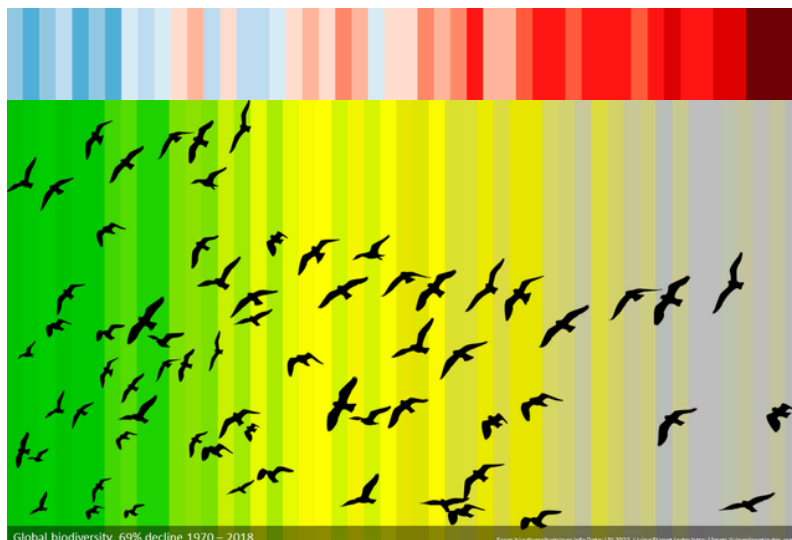
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You could:

- Visit these websites:
 - **CLIMATE:** <https://showyourstripes.info/>
 - **BIODIVERSITY:** <https://biodiversitystripes.info/>
- Download your regional stripes
- Think about how you can use these to communicate these twin issues and make them relevant in your setting, such as on social media, posters, events, art

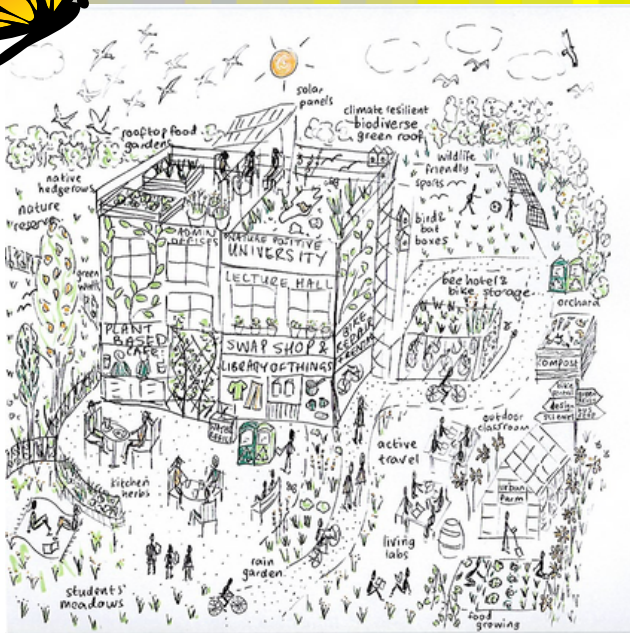
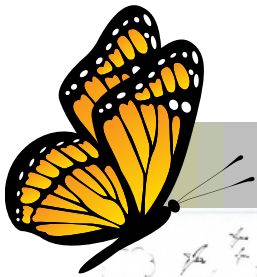


2

Creative response to Nature Positive!

You could:

- Create some artwork, graphics, photography or writing to explore the concept of a nature positive university or campus. There is no right answer and we invite any scale or approach using your preferred style, media or language!



2

Creative response to Nature Positive!



We are exploring ways to feature your responses:

This might be part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration or in collaboration with our partners at UNEP

via our social media channels with the hashtag **#GenerationRestoration**

and through the global Nature Positive Initiative.

We will check with you before publishing anything, but this is an invitation to get started!