



Student Ambassador Programme

WORKSHOP 3

BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS ON CAMPUS

**NATURE
POSITIVE
BY 2030**

28TH FEBRUARY 2025/ 9AM GMT



Housekeeping



- Please do turn on your camera if you feel able to - we'd love to make this as interactive as possible
- Do introduce yourselves in chat, and ask questions as we go through!
- We'll have an intro, student speakers and a Q&A session
- We'll be launching polls during workshop asking you to share your ideas and experiences with us



Flexible agenda:



Welcome and introductions



Icebreaker: sharing tips on working with your campus staff



Exploring this month's action: the Conservation Hierarchy and actions for your campus



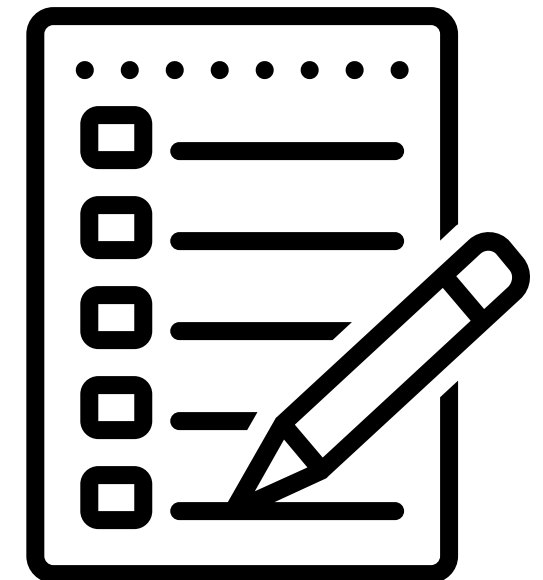
Presentations from student speakers - sharing experiences of biodiversity actions on campus



Speaker Q&A, sharing actions, open discussions



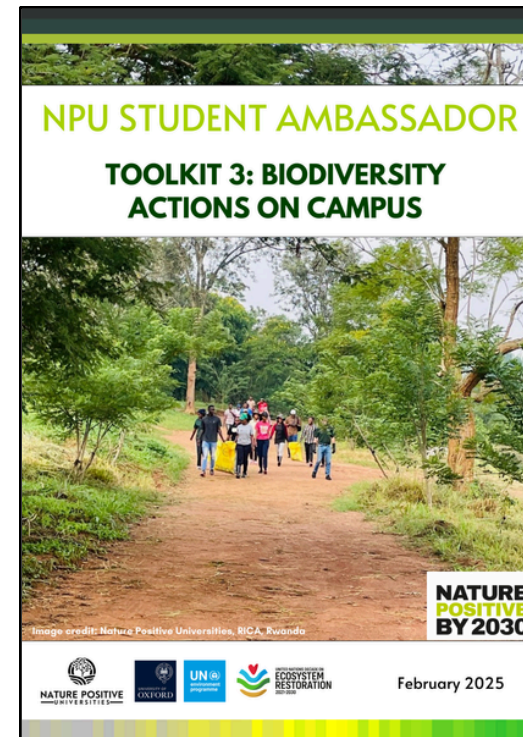
Summary of next steps - workbook form, toolkit and next workshop



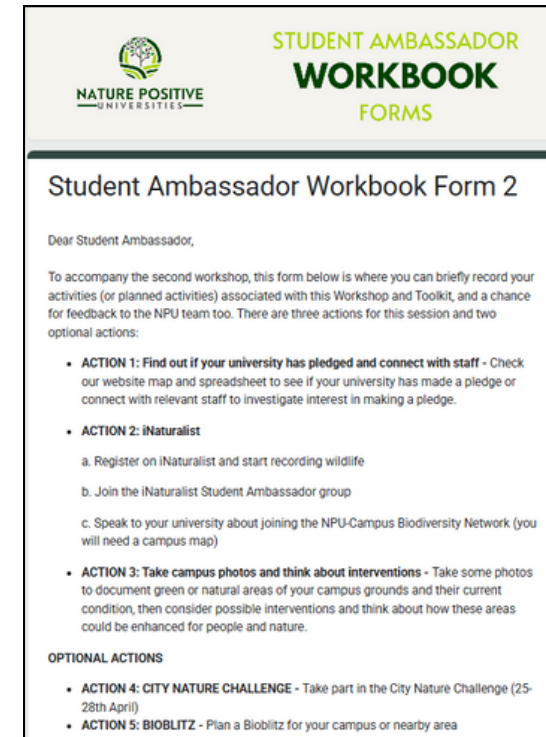
Recap: Ambassador programme



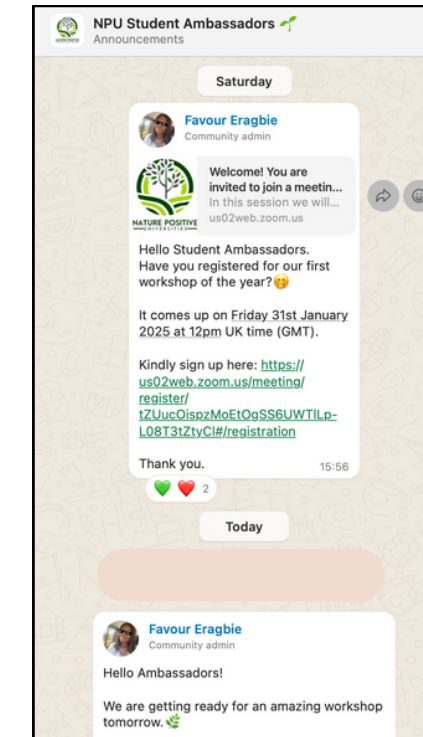
Green Skills workshops



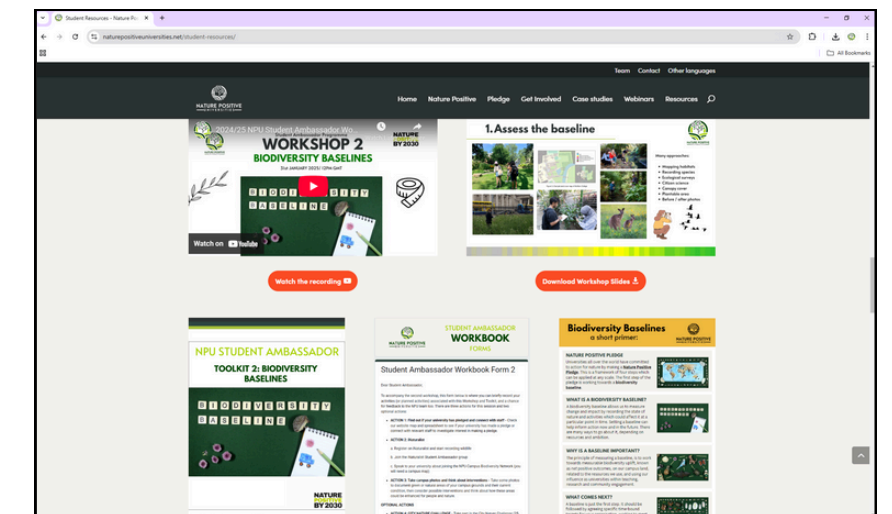
Action Toolkits



Workbook forms



WhatsApp chat



Student resources webpage

Who are the NPU Student Ambassadors team?



Emily Stott
Coordinator
University of Oxford



Favour Eragbie
Student Ambassador
Coordinator
University of Benin



Hollie Thompson
Project Assistant
University of Oxford



Your peers: 450 Student Ambassadors from 42 countries!



Recap: Nature Positive Pledge



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UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

1

ASSESS THE
BASELINE

Carry out a baseline of your institutional biodiversity impacts

2

SET SMART
TARGETS

Specific, time limited, measurable targets for nature

3

ACT AND
INFLUENCE

Bold actions for nature using the Conservation Hierarchy or 4Rs: Refrain, Reduce, Restore, Renew

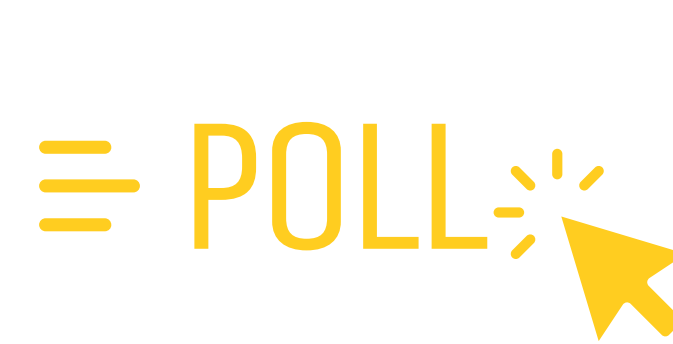
4

REPORT
ANNUALLY

Report transparently on your progress on your university website

#GenerationRestoration

Working with campus staff



Icebreaker - tips for working with campus staff

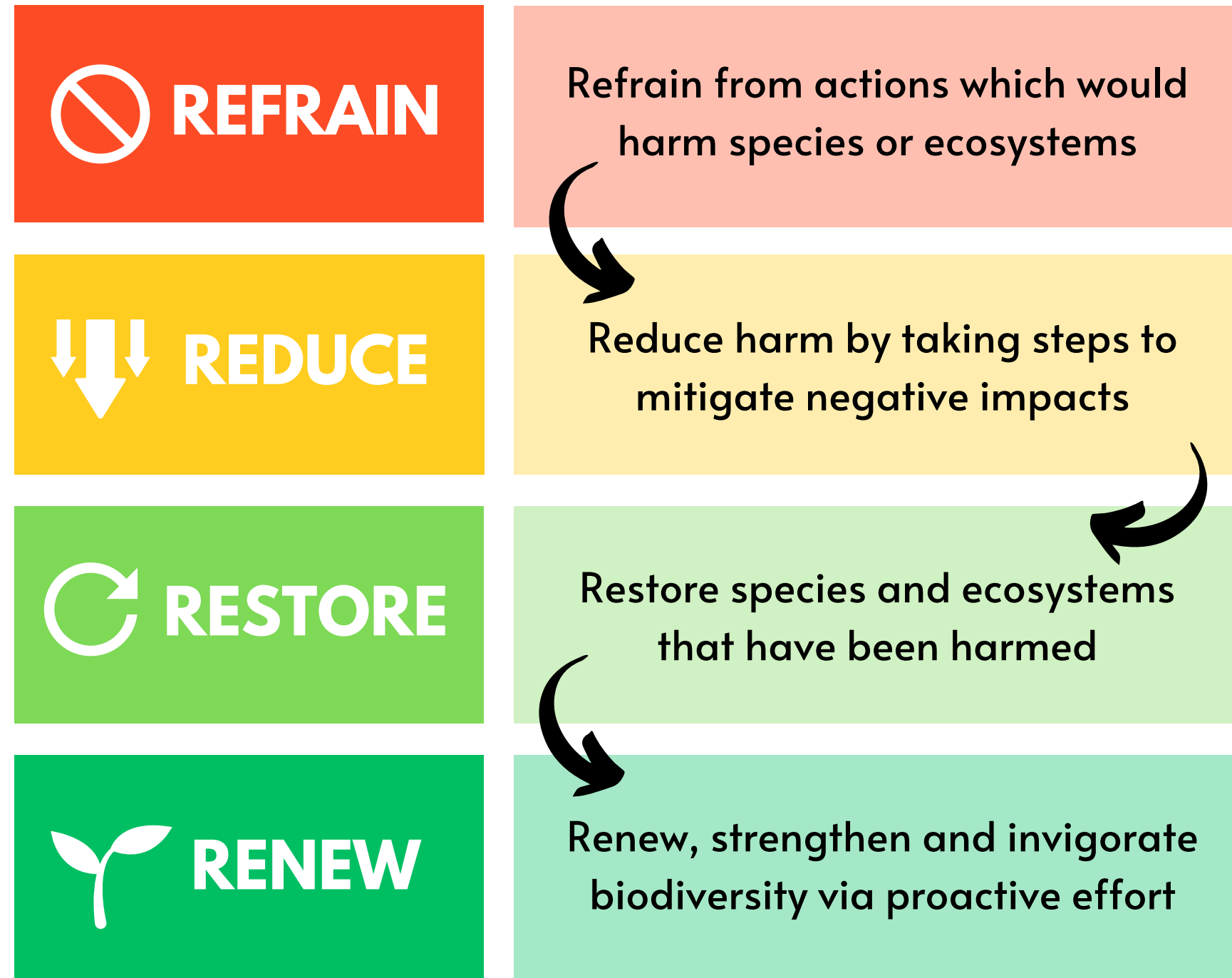
- Who to speak to?
- How to work together?
- Resources needed



Conservation Hierarchy




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Conservation Hierarchy



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 REFRAIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness to avoid littering and waste pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campaign for avoiding use of harmful chemicals for grounds maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid lighting that interferes with wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop policies and services to avoid waste pollution		
 REDUCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work or campaign to reduce mowing on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce water pollution by advocating for waste management services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce bird strikes by modifying glass buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce fauna collisions by signage and speed limits on campus roads		
 RESTORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Litter pick to restore degraded areas of campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace exotic plants with native to support wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of invasive plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish green roofs and walls on hard surfaces		
 RENEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation of bug hotels and nest boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change management of lawns to create of meadow areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create log piles, pond habitats and wilder areas of campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help create a wildlife hedge with native species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create new woodland areas on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build shrub and container gardens

Case studies:



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University of Benin, Nigeria
waste awareness campaign



University of Swansea, UK
zero waste shop facilitates
avoiding waste through
refilling containers



University of Swansea, UK
achieves 'Refill campus'
status and installs water
fountains across campus

- Raise awareness to avoid littering and waste pollution

- Campaign for avoiding use of harmful chemicals for grounds maintenance

- Avoid lighting that interferes with wildlife

- Develop policies and services to avoid waste pollution

Case studies:

↓↓↓ REDUCE



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- Work or campaign to reduce mowing on campus

- Reduce water pollution by advocating for waste management services

- Reduce bird strikes by modifying glass buildings

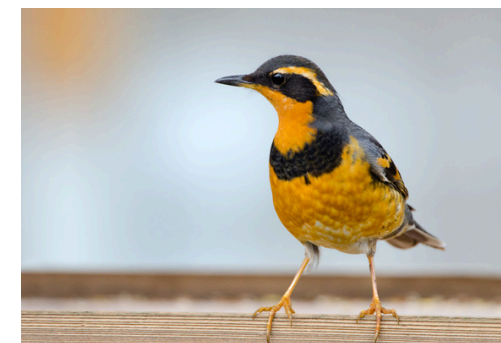
- Reduce fauna collisions by signage and speed limits on campus roads



“Campus in bloom” campaign, led by students at FU Berlin, Germany led to reduced mowing and meadow creation



Reducing fauna collisions by signage and speed limits at University of Campinas, Brazil



Varied Thrush



American Robin

Reducing bird collisions at UBC Canada by modifications to glass surfaces

Case studies:



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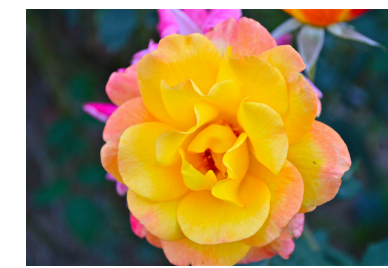
Litter pick to restore degraded areas of campus at University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin



Allen's Hummingbird



Yarrow



California rose



Students lead restoration of Stone Canyon Creek at UCLA, United States, by removing invasive species and allowing native vegetation to thrive, also removing pollutants from the water, and providing habitat to birds

- Litter pick to restore degraded areas of campus

- Replace exotic plants with native to support wildlife

- Removal of invasive plant species

- Establish green roofs and walls on hard surfaces

Case studies:



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Building bee homes in collaboration with bee experts and engaging staff and students at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria



Dead wood "Nurse log area" in parking lot at Dawson College, Canada to provide habitat for insects and mushrooms



Creation of wildflower meadows outside student accommodation at Nottingham Trent University, UK

- Creation of bug hotels and nest boxes

- Create log piles, pond habitats and wilder areas of campus

- Change management of lawns to create of meadow areas

- Help create a wildlife hedge with native species

- Create new woodland areas on campus

- Build shrub and container gardens

Toolkit pages:



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Case Studies - Refrain

Students commemorate World Clean Up Day in Lagos

Students from several Nigerian Universities joined together with their local communities to commemorate #WorldCleanUpDay2022 and #LeaveNoTrace campaign by organising several clean up events in September 2022. Litter pick events took place at Kantagora market, Lagos, and Usele market, Benin City, Nigeria. Friends of Nature student group, University of Benin co-organised the events, which raised awareness and demonstrated opportunities to restore degraded areas of land and build pride in the local environment.

Case Studies - Refrain

Develop institutional policies to avoid waste pollution and provide supporting infrastructure, Bournemouth University, UK

The focus at Bournemouth University (BU) is on reducing the overall volume of waste produced per person and they are tracking against a goal of keeping campus waste produced to well below 20kg/FTE/yr (non-construction and non-residential). Actions being taken to reduce the amount of waste produced includes: encouraging students to refill water bottles through their status as a 'Refill Campus' with City to Sea, introducing an innovative 'Cup Exchange Scheme' and implementing a 'No Disposable Cups Week'. BU also has a target for construction waste for 95% to be recycled.

Students helping with a waste audit

Edfest 2022 beach clean

Case Studies - Reduce

Bird friendly buildings at UBC, Canada

Vancouver's shiny, tall, mirror-like buildings are an attractive and much-photographed sight. So too is the local wildlife, with Vancouver boasting one of the highest densities of wintering birds of any Canadian city. Unfortunately, the combination can turn those beautiful reflective glass windows into bird killers. Despite the numbers, bird strikes are an ecological issue not many people are aware of. At UBC, researchers and staff are working to change that, with a grassroots effort to bird-proof buildings.

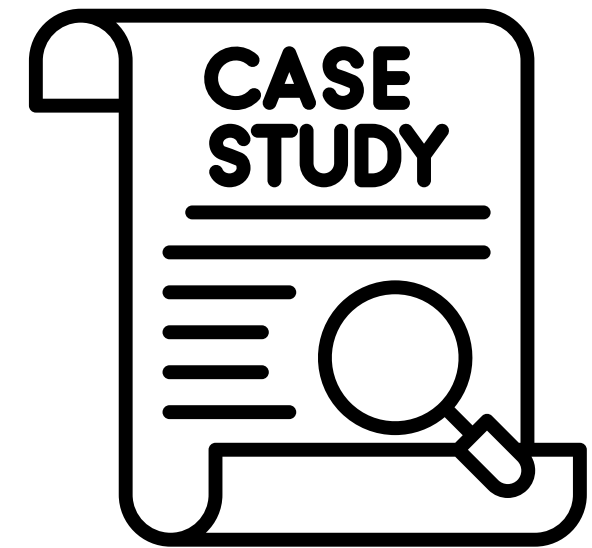
Two of the most common birds that collide with buildings at UBC Vancouver

Work to reduce mowing on your campus

Why?
Decreasing the frequency of lawn mowing promotes insect and plant diversity. It also discourages removal of 'weed' species which may be vital nectar and pollen sources for urban insect communities.

Where?
Campus grounds and gardens. Anywhere with intensively managed lawns will benefit from this change; it may be especially desirable in less conspicuous areas.

How?
Speak to your university grounds staff and encourage them to wait as long as possible between mowing lawns - do so only when the grass has become unbearably long, keeping in mind that longer grass is of greater benefit to biodiversity. In the UK, you can find grassland management guidance online. It can be useful to consider signage to explain why areas look more 'messy' than with traditional management (see examples below)



Case Studies - Restore

Day of Zero Waste

Litter pick to restore degraded areas of campus at Abomey-Calavi University, Benin

Students at Abomey-Calavi University in Benin celebrated the first International Day of Zero Waste on 31st March 2023 by organising a litter pick to restore degraded areas of campus, collecting a total of 5131 pieces of litter. This has developed into a "No waste on my campus" campaign, promoting proper waste disposal and recycling options, and presenting alternatives to commonly littered items such as plastic bags.

Case Studies - Restore

Stone Canyon Restoration Project at UCLA, United States

UCLA students, staff, and faculty have partnered with The Bay Foundation and thousands of volunteers to help restore the ecosystem of the only natural creek on campus. These efforts are currently led by Professor Alison Lipman and the student organization Ecological Restoration Association at UCLA. Serving as a "living laboratory", this area teaches students how to restore natural habitats by removing invasive species and allowing natives to thrive. Volunteers continue to eliminate invasive vegetation, replant the area with native vegetation, and restore the ecosystem. The newly established vegetation removes pollutants from the water and serves as habitat to birds and other wildlife on campus.

Examples of some of the species found at Stone Canyon Creek

Case Studies - Renew

Nurse Logs Protected on Campus at Dawson College, Canada

Dawson College have started a "nurse log area" in their parking lot. The logs are placed specifically around the grounds to attract insects that depend on decomposing trees and for mushrooms. There are 120 year old trees that are being cut down due to structural weakness, but they are being let to return to the earth where they have stood for so long. There is also an indigenous ceremony of gratitude held for any tree over 100 years old before it is cut down.

Building bee homes and raising awareness at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria

In 2024, a group of Nature Positive Student Ambassadors at Ahmadu Bello University carried out a 3-week bee homes project, where they worked in collaboration with the university administration, staff and students to build and install several bee homes on their campus. The project involved researching and consulting local experts to design the bee homes, engaging staff and students through social media, campus noticeboards and information sessions and installing the homes around campus. Overall the project raised awareness of the importance of bees as well as biodiversity on campus.

Case Studies - Renew

Creation of wildflower meadows at Nottingham Trent University (NTU), UK

NTU Conservation Society (ConSoc) sowed wildflowers outside accommodation blocks at the Brackenhurst Campus as part of their efforts to create habitats and support biodiversity on campus. The ground was first prepped by raking away loose plant matter and then sowed the seeds onto the bare ground. It is hoped that, with support from teams across the university community, ConSoc may be able to measure the carbon-storing contributions of wildflower and subsequent tree planting to help NTU achieve its Net Zero Carbon 2050 Target.

Creation of rain garden at Peking University, China

Students at Peking University China led an initiative to convert a 300-square-meter lawn into a vibrant rain garden, fostering biodiversity and improving stormwater management on campus. Working with students from diverse disciplines, native planting strategies were designed and implemented to support local pollinators and ecological resilience. This project not only restored natural habitats but also created an outdoor educational space, combining landscape design expertise with community engagement to actively combat nature loss and reduce flooding on campus.

We'd love to share your examples in this Toolkit! Send us a photo and approx 100-200 words of text (or a URL) describing the action -or let us know that you are happy for us to use photos you've already sent - and we'll try to feature it in this month's Toolkit and on the NPU website!

Please submit via:
www.naturepositiveuniversities.net/case-studies

Workshop 3 Actions:


1. **CONSERVATION HIERARCHY** - Explore possible actions for your campus using the Conservation Hierarchy: Refrain, Reduce, Restore, Renew. You could just choose one action to focus on, or explore a range of options

2. **PLAN BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS:** think through practical steps towards taking action on your campus:

- **WHAT** do you want to do or work towards?
- **WHO** might you need to work with or get permission from?
- **WHEN** is a reasonable timeframe?
- **HOW** you will carry this out and which resources you would need?

1 Explore possible actions using the Conservation Hierarchy

Using the below table as a guide (or in your own format / design), consider a range of actions that could be taken at your university at different steps of the Conservation Hierarchy.

 REFRAIN	
 REDUCE	
 RESTORE	
 RENEW	

2 Plan biodiversity 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, but we encourage you to take the approach that you think will work best.

There is no minimum/maximum number of actions to be taken, depends on time, resources and interest etc. We hope the actions and case studies featured, and links on the following page will give you ideas and tips for actions that could be taken in your setting.

You might want to think through practical steps towards taking action on your campus:

WHAT?

What you want to do or work towards?

WHO?

Who you might need to work with or get permission from?

WHEN?

When is a reasonable timeframe to achieve this action?

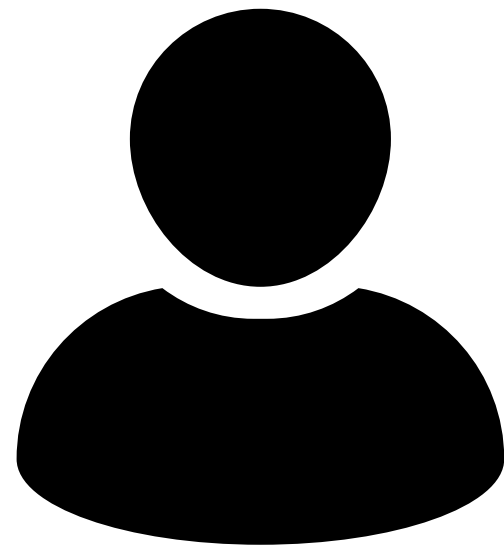
HOW?

How you will carry this out and which resources you would need?

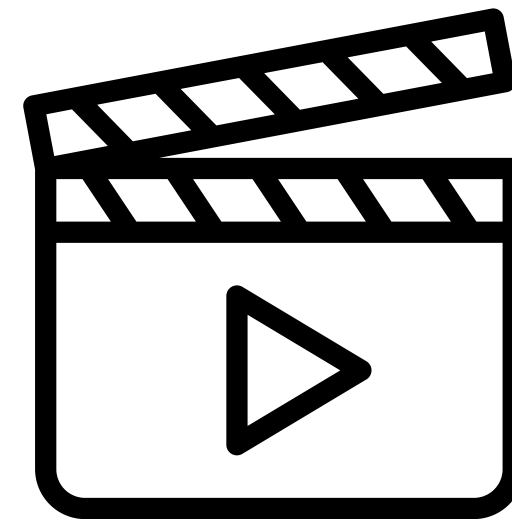


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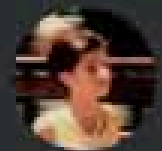
Sharing experiences organising or joining biodiversity actions on campus



Hao Zhang,
Student Ambassador
Peking University,
China



Yanyan Li,
Student Ambassador
Beijing Forestry University,
China



李妍妍

My Journey: Conservation at Beijing Forestry University

Yanyan Li

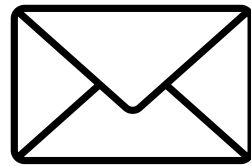
Beijing Forestry University



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Next steps:

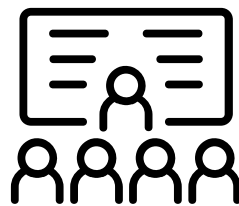
Look out for our email next week! We will email with a link to download the following:



- **A copy of these slides**
- **A recording of this session to watch back**
- **Toolkit 3: Biodiversity actions on campus**
- **Workbook Form 3: Biodiversity actions on campus**
- **Zoom registration link for NPU coffee drop in**



Continue to check WhatsApp group: share your ideas and actions or ask advice from your peers!

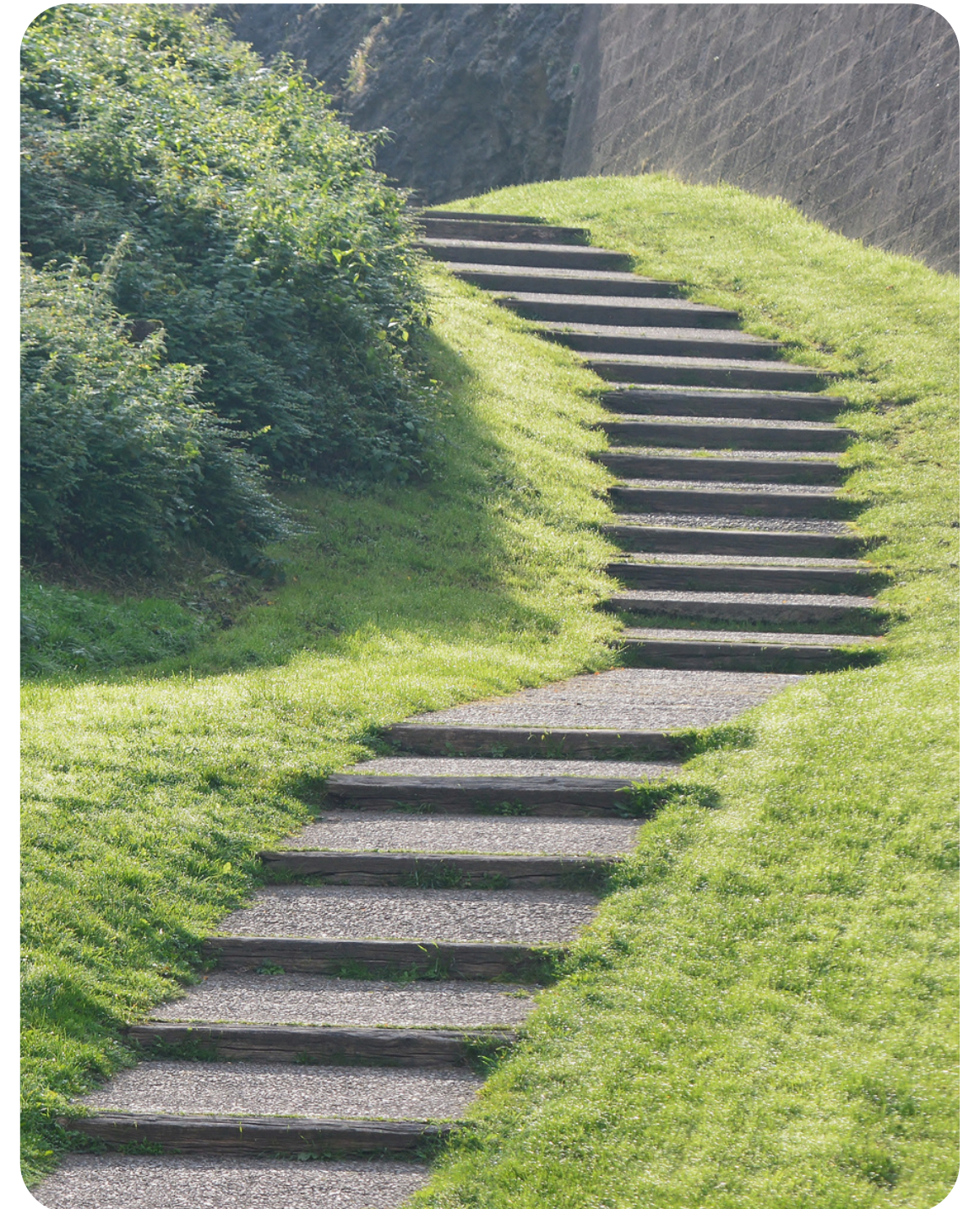


Reminder - next workshop dates and topics:

- **March 28th: Food**
- **April 25th: Waste and resource use**
- **May 30th: Advocacy & community engagement**



NPU coffee drop in: 7th March at 12pm - 1pm UK time





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