

Biodiversity Policy



Objectives

Ascendi's Biodiversity Policy is a commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity in the road infrastructures under its management.

The use of these infrastructures is inseparable from significant and ongoing impacts on ecosystems and natural communities, which must be thoroughly mitigated and attenuated, protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Ascendi's aim is to become an element of change: a living laboratory in favour of biodiversity conservation, from genetic diversity to ecosystems and habitats, supported by three main vectors of action: Monitor, Raise Awareness and Conserve, with the latter being promoted from a Nature Positive perspective, both by taking on minimisation actions, restoration and offset projects, and through additional conservation measures on the impacts already identified.

Guidelines

Ascendi's actions in terms of sustaining biodiversity are based on:

- The inclusion of the principles of biodiversity conservation and the protection of ecosystem services in the Organisation's internal processes, based on the "net positive impact" guideline, developing actions to enhance the biodiversity of each site;
- Carrying out a priori biological monitoring of all activities with an impact on biodiversity, promoting the safeguarding of all living specimens;
- Continuously monitoring the state of the ecosystems and natural communities adjacent to the infrastructures under its management;
- Continuous and proactive consultation with the different stakeholders, including topics such as Ascendi's performance in terms of biodiversity;
- Entering into collaborative partnerships with academic institutions, boosting scientific production through the synergy between academia and Ascendi's activity;
- Promoting the adoption of nature-based solutions to the detriment of traditional engineering practices;
- Promoting the use of biological methods, namely methods of interspecific competition in management and control of invasive alien species, rather than chemical methods;
- Restoring ecosystems and their services, favouring the establishment of stable native natural communities that are more resilient to human-induced change;

- Promoting an increase in the diversity of native flora species, ensuring their origin and genetic heritage and enabling the development of stable flora communities, respecting the particular phytosociological associations of each site and promoting sustainable biodiverse natural spaces;
- Promoting environmental awareness and education in favour of protecting biodiversity, and involving local communities;
- Training and raising awareness among employees on an ongoing basis about the aspects and impacts on biodiversity inherent in their respective functions.