



Student Ambassador Programme

WORKSHOP 3

BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS ON CAMPUS

**NATURE
POSITIVE
BY 2030**

27TH FEBRUARY 2026/ IPM GMT



Housekeeping



- Please turn on your camera if you feel able to, introduce yourself in the chat and ask questions as we go along - we'd love to make this as interactive as possible
- Simultaneous translation - French and Spanish - please use the globe icon: 
- The workshop is being recorded and the recording will be made available to watch back afterwards
- We'll be looking to reach out to several of you to invite you to speak briefly in future sessions, based on the information you provided in your applications



Agenda:



Welcome from NPU team



Exploring the Conservation Hierarchy and actions for your campus including a poll



Student experiences: Jingyi, Ahmed, Augustine and Q&A



Actions and project planning tips (Avani and Favour)



Summary of next steps - workshop quiz, toolkit and next workshop



Who are the NPU Student Ambassadors team?



Emily Stott
NPU Coordinator
University of Oxford



Favour Eragbie
Student Ambassador Coordinator
Youth for Environmental Conservation



Avani Jyani
Student Ambassador Coordinator
Familial Forestry India



Hollie Thompson
NPU Project Assistant
University of Oxford



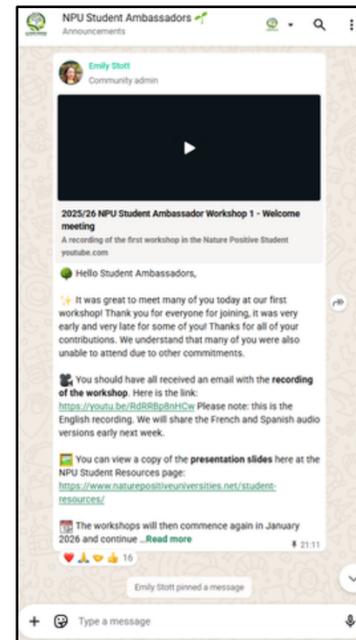
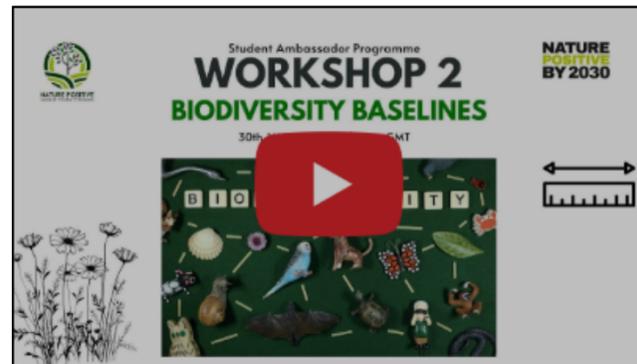
Contact: Please use email (not WhatsApp) if you need to contact us!

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Recap: Ambassador programme resources



Green Skills workshops

Action Toolkits

WhatsApp group

Workshop quizzes

Activity form

Student resources webpage

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



Tips for working with campus staff

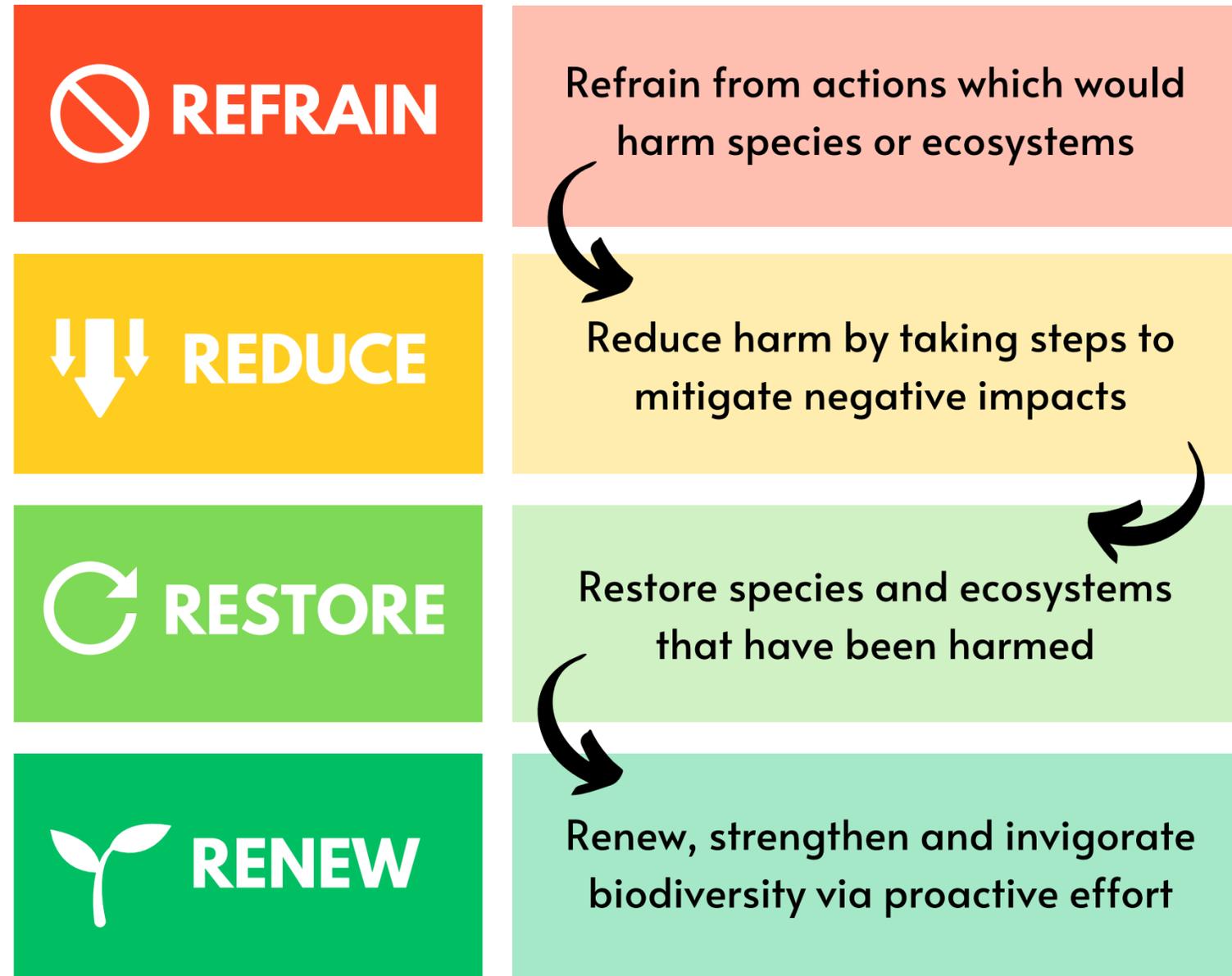
- Who to speak to?
- How to work together?
- Resources needed



Conservation Hierarchy



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Campus actions



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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 gardening / 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 on 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



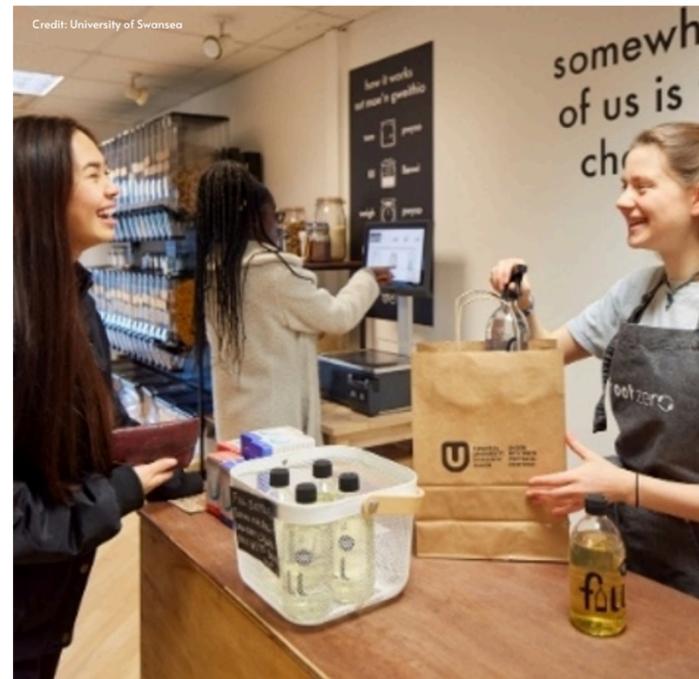
Case studies:



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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 gardening or grounds maintenance

- Avoid lighting that interferes with wildlife

- Develop policies and services to avoid waste pollution

Case studies:

↓↓↓ REDUCE



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Varied Thrush



American Robin



Credit: Blühender Campus



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

Reducing bird collisions at UBC Canada by modifications to glass surfaces

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

- 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

Case studies:



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Credit: University of Abomey-Calavi

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



Allen's Hummingbird



Yarrow



California rose



Credit: UCLA

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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Credit: Ahmadu Bello University students



Credit: Dawson College



Credit: Nottingham Trent University

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



Credit: Ahmadu Bello University students

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:

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



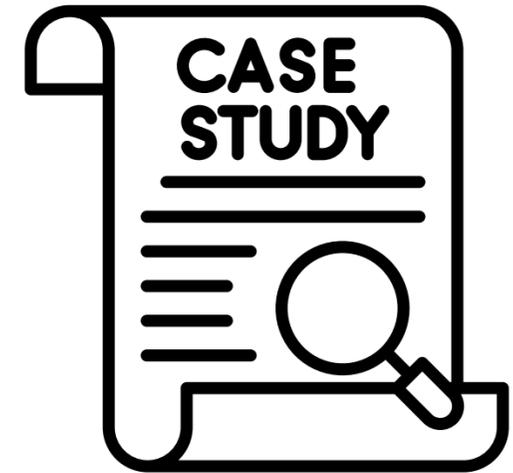

Work to reduce mowing on your campus

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

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.





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

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 for birds and other wildlife on campus.






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

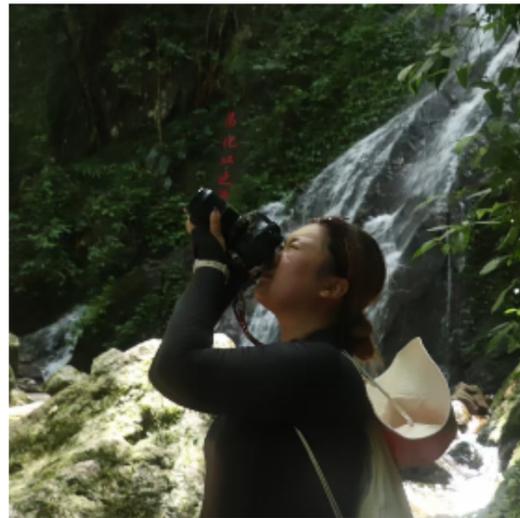
Students at Peking University China led an initiative to convert a 300-square-meter lawn into a vibrant rain garden, fostering biodiversity and improving stormwater management on campus. Working with students from diverse disciplines, native planting strategies were designed and implemented to support 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.



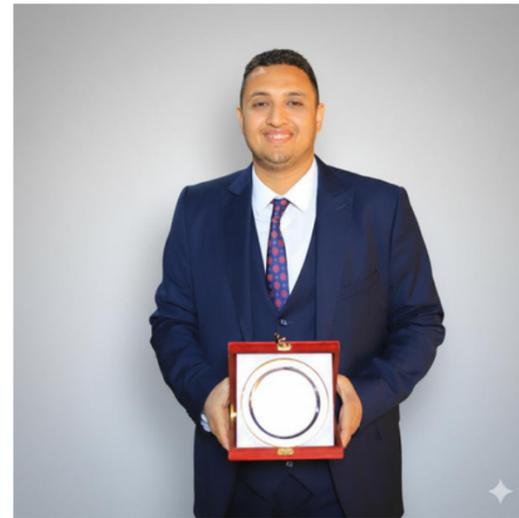
We'd love to share your examples in this Toolkit! Send us a photo and approx 100-200 words of text (or a URL) describing the action -or let us know that you are happy for us to use photos you've already sent - and we'll try to feature it in this month's Toolkit and on the NPU website!

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

Sharing experiences organising or joining biodiversity actions on campus



Jingyi Pang,
Student Ambassador
Imperial College London,
UK



**Ahmed Mahmoud
Elsayed Ali,**
Student Ambassador
Aswan University, Egypt



Augustine Allieu,
Student Ambassador
College of Digital
Excellence, Sierra Leone

Workshop 3 Actions:



- 1. EXISTING ACTIVITIES:** find out about any campus biodiversity projects that are already taking place on your campus or in your community and how you might be able to get involved.
- 2. 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.
- 3. CONSIDER IDEAS AND PLAN BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS:** think through practical steps towards taking action on your campus and submit an activity form:
 - 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?





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1 Find out about existing activities

There may already be biodiversity projects taking place on your campus or community-led initiatives that you might be able to get involved with. You could look to find out by conducting research online or by contacting relevant university staff or student groups.

How to connect with staff

If you are not already in contact with staff at your institution, then where possible, we are happy to help connect you with staff members we are in contact with. You will also find some information and tips for working with campus staff at the start of this Toolkit.

How to connect with NPU Student Ambassadors

Please feel free to reach out to us to find out if there are other NPU Student Ambassadors at your institution who are part of the programme this year. Where possible and if we have permission, we are happy to put you in touch.



2 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	

3 Plan biodiversity actions

As a Nature Positive Student 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 the below practical steps towards taking action on your campus and then complete an activity form to share your ideas with us ([Google Form](#) or [offline PDF](#)).

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?

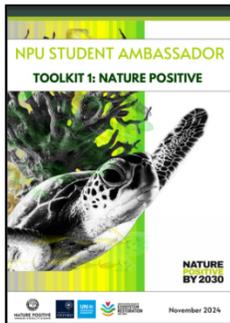
How you will carry this out and which resources you would need?

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Next steps:



Complete the **workshop quiz** - link will follow by email and in WhatsApp.



We will email with a link to download **the slides, recording of this session, Toolkit 3: Biodiversity actions on campus**. These will also be added to the **Student Resources page**.

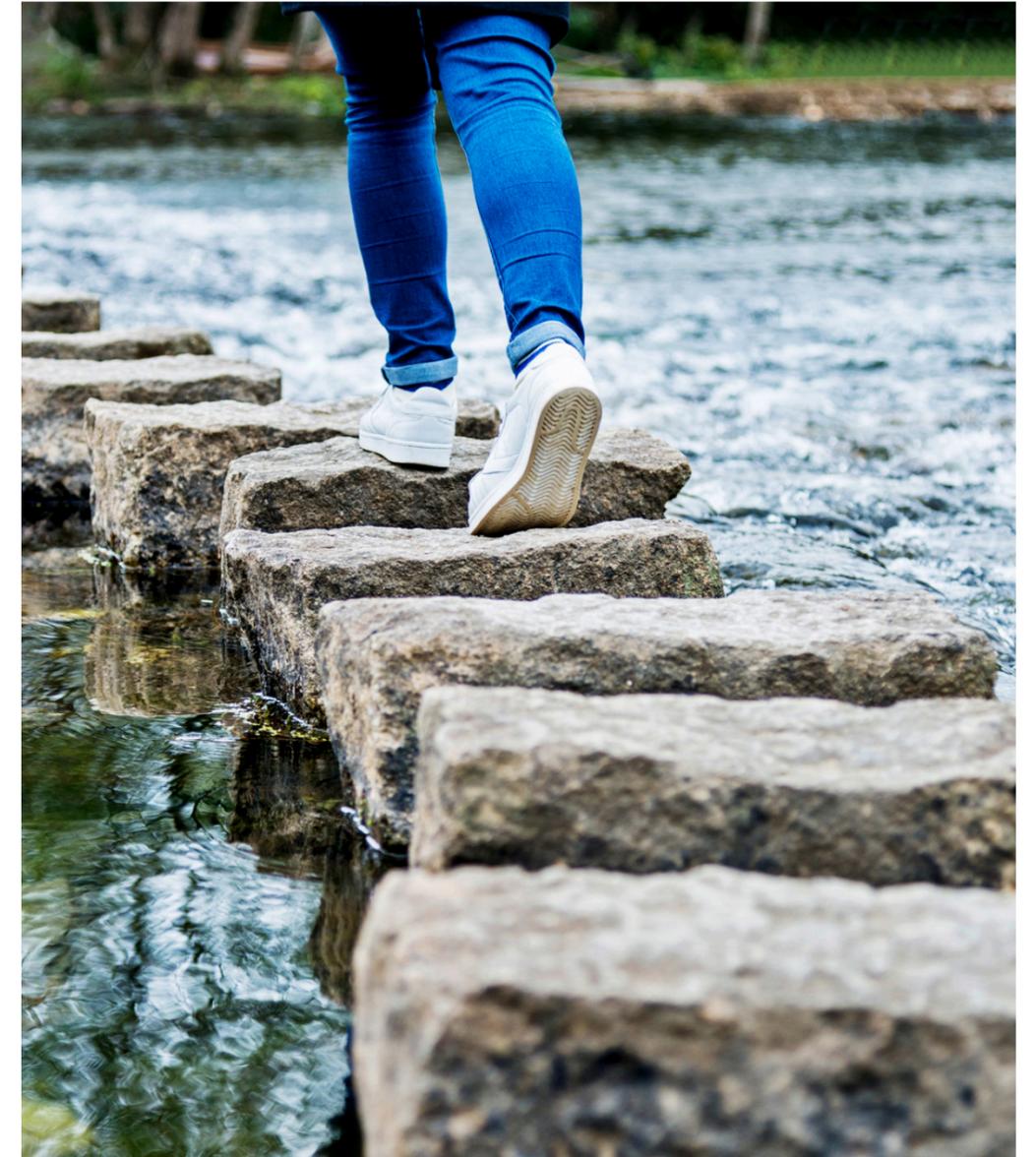


Continue to check WhatsApp group: share your progress and any questions.



Next workshop date and topic:

- **March 27th:** Sustainable food





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