

# BASIC QUALITY OF NATURE



Plant and animal life is diminishing. Merely protecting nature within our nature reserves is no longer enough. Even common species throughout the country are now facing significant challenges. In order to combat nature poverty, we need to provide conditions that support nature. In the Netherlands we have developed the concept of Basic Nature Quality.

We wake up to the sound of a blackbird singing, frogs croaking in the ditches, and flowering roadsides accompany our bike rides. Even a walk through a densely populated or industrial area can become a voyage of discovery. But for this to happen, the foundations must be in order: clean water, space for nature, good connectivity between parks, no excess nutrients or chemical pollution and managing everything in an insect friendly approach. That is basic nature quality: a healthy living environment that provides us with a variety of ecosystem services.

Basic Nature Quality occurs when the conditions for a healthy ecosystem are put in place. Enabling, common species to become and remain abundant. Even in those places where nature is not the first priority.

Just Like humans, species need certain essentials to survive: food, safety, water, diversity, reproduction and connectivity.

To meet the minimum requirements for basic nature quality, there are three key criteria to consider:

- 🌿 the environmental conditions,
- 🌿 the design of the landscape,
- 🌿 and nature-friendly management and functional use of the area.

By getting to work: redesigning our water system, bringing diversity to the landscape, allowing more space for nature, connecting green spaces, preventing pollution, banning pesticides and introducing insect friendly land management.

We know what we need to do, and starting now will be much more cost-effective than waiting to make changes. By implementing improvements and monitoring the effects it will enable us to continue to improve in our delivery for nature.

Working on Basic Nature Quality is thus, a process of action, learning, and continuous improvement.

To make sure that Basic Nature Quality will become the new normal it is necessary that everyone who is willing, can participate. Basic Nature Quality should belong to all of us. The next step will be to include Basic Nature Quality in government policy. When the conditions (environmental conditions and landscape design and management) are met, nature (both inside and outside our nature reserves) will thrive.

Start today to create a beautiful landscape with good water, soil and air quality, and you will have a healthy environment for nature and people to enjoy.

Together we can put a halt to nature poverty.

In the [Basic Nature Quality Toolbox](#) you will find all the necessary knowledge and tools in addition to a step-by-step plan to achieve this vision.