

Create your own 'National Parc Garden'

The National Parc gardens' is a sustainable project that aims to make the gardens of residents and recreation entrepreneurs more natural and therefore an extension of various National Parcs, like Utrechtse Heuvelrug, Dunes of Texel and South-Kennemerland. This project contributes to anchoring the values of the National Parc and the realization that it is a common interest and a joint responsibility to take care of nature and landscape in and around National Parcs. In addition, the garden project also contributes to other social tasks, such as climate adaptation, the loss of biodiversity and clean drinking water and ground water.

It will have impact on the residents of Municipalities and recreation entrepreneurs, which have urban and tiled gardens. We hope to inspire individual neighbourhoods to create more green and natural gardens, which are in the end also more climate resistant.

Our project makes a positive contribution to various social tasks:

Awareness Residents and recreation entrepreneurs are informed and inspired about 'good gardening', are more aware of their own living environment and feel that they are partly co-owners of the parc.

Knowledge about organic gardening will increase

Biodiversity is declining rapidly. More green in our living environment contributes to the restoration of biodiversity.

Climate adaptation: by adding more green space and creating more space for (storage of) water are important measures for this.

Elies Arps - NP Utrechtse Heuvelrug en initiatiefnemer van de NP tuinen, Coordinator Communication and Education and initiator of the National Parc gardens program

Masja Gielstra - NP Dunes of Texel, Coordinator Communication and Education

Gwen Pellinkhof - NP South-Kennemerland, Coordinator Communication & Education

FOS Europe: Using the Conservation Standards for PA (network) planning and management

A brief introduction to the Conservation Standards, an internationally used framework and toolbox to practice adaptive management. We will share examples of application - and highlight how building blocks can help improve learning and improve effectiveness across protected area networks.

Vladimir Milushev - FOS Europe

Goede Vissers: Inclusive conservation strategies

A more inclusive conservation strategies that take food production and local communities into account. Such a holistic approach avoids combat-like situations and prevents the huge losses that are caused by fights.

It will help to better and more sustainably secure our landscapes and their wild inhabitants.

We will look at the subject from the seaside.

Barbara Rodenburg Geertsema - Goede Vissers

IVN: Magical Moments through Connection & Teamwork



Nature brings us surprising moments, special times where people feel both free and connected. They connect with themselves and the world around them. We believe that when you love nature, you also want to take care of it. The national parks in the Netherlands give visitors an amazing experience.

In our country, we have a unique system where we work together with all 21 parks to create these experiences. We share ideas, inspire each other, and do projects together. This group of coordinators for Education & Communication is one of a kind, and we want to tell you all about what we've learned from our experiences.

Stefanie Boomsma – IVN

Digitize the Planet: How to communicate your park's rules digitally

The possibilities to communicate the beauty and the rules of a parc to one of the largest digital communities worldwide

Hartmut Wimmer – Digitize the Planet

IVN: Reciprocity in Human-Nature Relationship

We envision a mutually beneficial connection between humans and nature within the healthcare sector. As articulated by the Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), "We require nature to care for us, just as much as we are required to care for nature."

Every form of life on Earth is an integral part of the same global ecosystem, shaping the fundamental principle of the future healthcare domain: fostering well-being in individuals within a healthy living environment. Within this narrative, the healing potential of the green-blue landscape becomes evident, underscoring the imperative to actively invest in the restoration of nature for its own healing properties. Reciprocity assumes a central role within the vision of the forthcoming healthcare sector: nature contributes to our overall well-being, while we, as humans, play a crucial role in sustaining the vitality of nature, thereby nurturing our own well-being.

Andre Brasse – IVN

Wad van Waarde by House of Design

House of Design is a platform for professional design. We stimulate the innovative strength of designers and presents this to SMEs, government and the public. Therefore we initiate and organise projects, national and international. We aim for sustainable and innovative solutions.

Our project Wad van Waarde, a concept for a system change from plastic soup to 'veggie' soup in which we approach the problem at the source. Reducing the purchase of plastic goods by offering different biobased, multi-use and biodegradable alternative products. These products will be shown too

Eileen Blackmore – House of Design

YIMBY: Fostering citizens' interest and engagement in urban planning and landscape design using video game techno

In this pitch session, Tim Laning from Grendel Games will be presenting the powerful capabilities and potential of YIMBY. YIMBY, which cleverly stands for "Yes, In My Back Yard," embodies the essence of its purpose: an engaging video game-like application meticulously crafted to meet the needs of local, regional, and national governments, stakeholders, and organizations. It inherently encourages citizens to actively voice their opinions on matters of urban planning, landscape design, and layout, all in a captivating and enjoyable manner.

Whether it pertains to their personal backyard, neighbourhood, village, city, or even a national park, YIMBY seamlessly integrates open-source resources to provide an extraordinarily simple and intuitive platform. Through this platform, individuals can not only articulate their viewpoints, but they can also creatively shape their own aspirations and wishes into tangible designs. The blend of interactive expression and collaboration is what makes YIMBY a remarkable tool for fostering citizen involvement in shaping their surroundings.

Tim Laning – Grendel Games

Earth Ranger: A situational awareness software platform for conservationists and protected area managers

EarthRanger is a software solution that aids protected area managers, ecologists, and wildlife biologists in making more informed operational decisions for wildlife conservation. Protected areas are vast expanses of land with wildlife facing threats of deforestation, community encroachment, poaching, climate change, and illegal trading of wildlife. It's vital for protected area managers to be able to monitor wildlife and their natural habitats in real-time.

Bruce Jones – Earth Ranger

Kadaster: To create buffer zones around N2000, land consolidation is an option

Jan Spijkerboer – Kadaster

IVN: Every National Parc has its own great stories

1. How you can use the power of stories as a National Park
2. The use of storytelling techniques (hero's journey)
3. Where to find the powerful stories in your National Park
4. Application of storytelling in a park and the interaction with the public

Wim Ruis – IVN

Netics: Solutions for re-use of dredge sediment into useful applications (Wadden Sea project)

NETICS is a leading innovative research and consultancy firm in civil engineering and is internationally regarded as the expert in the field of reuse and construction with dredged material. NETICS has the knowledge and expertise to stabilize this dredged material into

building materials. This makes it possible to build innovative civil engineering constructions, such as: flood defences, breakwaters, dams, banks, dikes and islands. Special focus at NETICS is given to nature based solutions where local sediment is used to restore nature. We will show an example of natural reefs constructed from dredged sediment in the WaddenSea.

Jeroen van den Berg and Jip Koster – Netics

Weerribben Wieden: Explore the National Park in a new way

Where do I rent a boat? Is there a nice café nearby? What events can I visit? To guide our guests better through our National Park, we developed a new app: The Weerribben-Wieden app.

The app helps visitors directly on their way and gives practical tips about locations and activities. It points the way to special places and loads of businesses in the National Park. The goal is to have booking systems and visitor information on one central location, but it also tells our cultural and natural historical story.

In the future we might be able to monitor visitor behavior and guide visitors to places where they have the least impact on their environment and can even have a positive socioeconomical impact. The development of this app did not go easily, we are not Google and cannot compete with them. But it is unique in its content and teaches us a lot about our customer journey and the stories we tell our visitors.

You can download the app via the play store.

<https://npweerribbenwieden.nl/projecten/duurzaam-toerisme/weerribben-wieden-app-en-beleefmagazine/>

Lisanne Kruiswijk – Weerribben Wieden

Axionomic: Robinson Counter: Real Time monitoring of visitors (GDPR-proof)

Real time counting and monitoring of the number of pedestrians, hikers, bicyclists in a natural environment can be a challenge, due to power supply and connectivity issues.

We solved this with our Robinson Counter and data solution. The backend of this IoT-based solution can also be applied in other use cases, where data is gathered, published and shared in a real time for monitoring, management and analysis purposes.

Nature Returns: Bringing innovative business as a solution to site management

Recognising the difficulties of Protected Areas to find funding for their management and to implement effective management plans, the Business for Nature project is all about creating and incubating innovative business that contribute to managing protected areas through the involvement of local community's stakeholders and entrepreneurs.

A partnership of Nature Returns, EuroNatur, Connectology and the management bodies of 5 Protected Areas of Africa and Europe is pursuing to apply and adapt the Open Standards for Conservation and use an incubation fund to support and promote businesses that can revert the threats identified during the management planning process. The approach aims creating innovative businesses and improving income and quality of life for the residents, at the same time there is a synergy with the management body. This includes an incubation fund for developing and supportive local start-ups to develop businesses for nature.



Whilst testing this approach in 5 sites, we look for possibilities for scaling up its use. Still in its initial stages, the project will publish the findings in the end as a toolkit for the conservation community.

Luis Costa - Nature Returns