



# Supporting biodiversity for a sustainable future

## Growing green with renewables

RWE is leading the way to a clean energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. It is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

## Our engagement for biodiversity

Climate change and biodiversity loss are two of the greatest global challenges of our time – for RWE, renewable energy is part of the solution. Nevertheless, RWE recognises that the large-scale expansion of renewables can have an impact on biodiversity.

We believe that it is our responsibility to minimise the environmental burden of our business activities and we have made protecting and promoting biodiversity one of the priorities of our growth strategy. Not only do we comply with environmental legislation and permit requirements in the regions where we operate, but we also go beyond these. This means not only reducing the impact of our activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, but also we are looking to soften this a little for offshore. Maybe: This means not only reducing the impact of our activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, but also striving for a positive contribution to biodiversity.

## Aiming for a positive contribution to biodiversity

We aim to achieve a positive contribution to biodiversity for all new assets by 2030 in focus markets and technologies. For all new assets by 2030 in focus markets and technologies. Today, consideration for the unique natural environment in each of our projects is already a priority. When we develop and operate our projects, protecting terrestrial and aquatic species and habitats is a fundamental concern for us.

## Our Principles for protecting and enhancing biodiversity

- Having a positive contribution towards biodiversity by 2030 for new assets, unless local legislation requires this earlier.
- We adhere to the mitigation hierarchy principles of avoid, minimise, regenerate/restore and, if necessary, compensate for potential biodiversity impacts as a last resort.
- We build knowledge on the impacts of the energy sector on biodiversity and wildlife to promote collective learning and knowledge transfer.
- We follow best practice guidance in science-based target setting, such as the Science Based Targets for Nature (SBTN).
- We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 on 'Life below water' and 'Life on land'.



### Continuous learning through pilot projects

Pilot projects are central to our strategy, since we believe in the value of learning from our successes and failures. One of our pilot projects was designed to increase biodiversity around onshore wind farms. Making use of the re-cultivated site of a former opencast mine near Bedburg, Germany, we built several ponds surrounded by rocks and deadwood. This created new habitats for indigenous species, and now serves as a model for future projects. To create new habitats for indigenous species, we built several ponds surrounded by rocks and deadwood.

Seven wind turbines at our windfarm in Eemshaven, the Netherlands are participating in a three-year study to determine whether black rotor blades are more visible to birds and thus easier for them to avoid. RWE and the Province of Groningen launched the project in 2021 in collaboration with the Dutch government, bird conservation organisations and other wind energy companies.

We have trialled innovative vibro-piling techniques to install low-noise foundations at the Kaskasi windfarm site to reduce underwater noise exposure to harbour porpoises.

We contribute to maintaining healthy fish and shellfish stocks through several initiatives within and outside our windfarms. These include funding and working with a wild lobster hatchery connected to our Sofia and Triton Knoll windfarms, supporting the local fishing industry and raising awareness on marine protection and management.

### Innovation to pave the way to the future

At RWE, our focus is on innovation as the key to continuous improvement. We host international

innovation competitions on a regular basis by inviting participants to submit innovative solutions for improving the environmental impacts of our renewable energy sites and integrating wind power into the electrical grid. Our aim is to foster cooperation with companies, start-ups, and individuals around the world to generate innovative ideas for sustainable, cost-effective offshore wind generation.

### Working with multiple stakeholders for biodiversity

RWE works with multiple stakeholders on the topic of biodiversity – including scientists, NGOs, technology suppliers, authorities and local communities. For example, to promote collective learning, we collaborate with ecologists and local stakeholders to design and implement habitat enhancement and restoration programmes for the promotion of biodiversity at our renewable energy sites. Through ongoing collaboration, we will continue to nurture biodiversity and pursue our company's mission: our energy for a sustainable life.



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