

Protection and enhancement of biodiversity



BIODIVERSITY POLICY



SUPPORTING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

In accordance with our mission “Leading the field in sustainable waste management”, it is our goal to keep the environment and the circular economy clean and safe by safely processing waste and recovering as much materials and energy from this waste as possible. It is a continuous aim in our research and development, our services and our business activities. In this process, we aim to use natural resources responsibly, in so doing promoting biodiversity and thus recognizing the diversity of species, the diversity of ecosystems and genetic diversity.

INDAVER'S COMMITMENT

In every aspect of our business activities we ensure that our use of natural resources, such as raw materials and energy, is sustainable. This also means that we make every effort to promote biodiversity and to recognise the diversity of various ecosystems and genetic diversity. Biodiversity assessment forms an important part of every environmental license for any new location, adaptation or expansion. Consequently, we can guarantee that we are maintaining biodiversity in and around our sites and throughout the entire chain.

We are explicitly committed to the United Nations' "Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)" and its objectives, including the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

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INDAVER'S ROLE

Indaver focuses on maintaining biodiversity:

- in the selection of raw materials;
- by controlling emissions into the environment;
- in production locations by minimising or compensating for the impact of our constructions on nature (for example: the horizon-line of our new built facilities follow the undulations of the landscape as much as possible);
- with innovative processes for recovering materials and energy from waste;
- with the production and sale of compost, Indaver is making a contribution to the fertility of soil and biodiversity;
- by supporting local projects that promote biodiversity.

We believe that the diversity of ecosystems and species is invaluable for the future generations and needs to be protected for its own sake. Conscious of our dependency and influence on biodiversity along the whole value chain, Indaver commits to mainstreaming of biodiversity in a variety of ways throughout our core businesses.

A SUMMARY OF WHAT WE DO IN PRACTICE

Initial biodiversity studies and field research

Indaver conducts initial biodiversity studies within the framework of an environmental impact assessment and/or report. Indaver also carries out field research to examine the status of biodiversity on its sites. Indaver tries to choose areas with little biodiversity and ecological value to build its new facilities as much as possible, and then to enhance the biodiversity of the sites with revegetation programmes.

Protecting the land

Limiting impact on marshlands

In every area where Indaver is building new facilities we plan for the site and the parts of the facility to limit the impact as much as possible. If the area is classified as 'wetland area, marsh or bog' due to the composition of the soil and the geohydrology, specific fauna and flora can develop there. That is why Indaver takes precautionary measures to safeguard these. In accordance with the local and national regulations, where an impact on the surface area is unavoidable, similar areas have been created using habitat

management in other areas. Our licenses also include prerequisites to leave the fauna present as undisturbed as possible, in part by using, for example, adapted lighting, amphibian ladders, reservoirs and bat boxes.

Repair of former heathland & orchard

Indaver protects nature areas in the surroundings of its facilities e.g. small areas of heathland. Indaver supports environmental organisations to invest in revegetation, plants and equipment for pruning or replacing trees to get the area ready for grazing sheep. Repopulating an orchard on the edge of Polder area with old varieties of apples and pears is one of its accomplishments, by working together with a local environmental organization.

Natural alternatives for pesticides and herbicides

Whenever possible, Indaver will use natural products to remove unwanted and/or invasive vegetation in the green zones at its sites. In that case a biological, safe, non-toxic weed remover is used which is a combination of soapy water and hot steam. This creates a thermal blanket on the weeds that kills the weeds without causing harm to insects, birds etc.

Protecting animals on land

Green zone development

Indaver developed, where possible, green zones on its sites to e.g. (re)plant a wide variety of species of indigenous trees, species of indigenous shrubs and a mixture of indigenous species of meadow and wild flowers. Studies at our sites have identified many types of wild flowers, which are a source of pollen and nectar for pollinating species of insects.

Landfills: creating a safe haven for animals

Our landfills provide a home to a number of wild species, including roe deer and falcons, who have found a safe haven within our fences. During fawning season of the deer, Indaver stops all excavation and cutting works until the fawns are able to stand safely and independently.

Home to butterflies, bees, hares, foxes, bats, birds and many more

Our site in Meath fosters a stable population of Irish hares, and foxes have also been spotted occasionally. A wide variety of bird species are observed at different sites or within the direct surroundings. Indaver also supports a bat protecting project in a port area where bunkers from the Second World War provide an ideal hibernation roost for bats. Several species of bumblebee are living on our sites, even some having 'near threatened species' status like the red-tailed bumblebee. Additionally, many species of butterflies and moths have been identified.

The aqueous life

The pond is alive

At many of its sites, ponds were dug out to store clean rainwater run-off before it is removed from the site. These ponds have become a habitat for newts and frogs. A newt study revealed that about 65 individual were counted, which indicated a very healthy population. Furthermore also fresh-water invertebrates also live in these ponds and sometimes a breeding pair of wild ducks can be seen foraging there.



Indaver conducts an annual report on biodiversity at its sites according to the requirements of the local and national authorities and pro-actively takes measures to further protect the environment and biodiversity in the vicinity of our business activities and operations.