

# Biodiversity assessment across the portfolio



PROJECT:  
**Biodiversity Risk Assessment**



COMPANY:  
**APG**



LOCATION:  
**Netherlands**

## Challenge

The widespread loss of biodiversity poses a significant threat to ecosystems, economies, and communities worldwide. Investors are increasingly challenged to understand and mitigate the impacts of their portfolios on biodiversity. The degradation of natural habitats due to deforestation, urban expansion, and industrial activities undermines ecosystem services vital for human well-being and economic stability. Identifying and addressing these impacts is crucial for sustainable investment practices and long-term financial stability.

## Solution / Approach

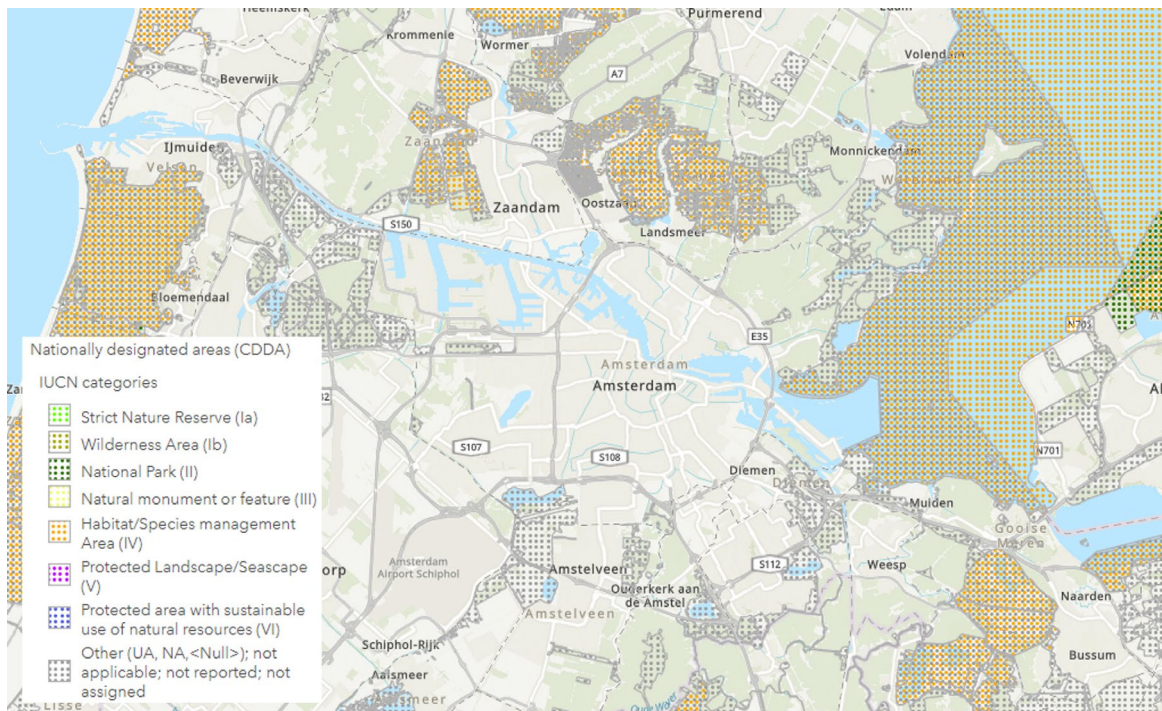
To address this challenge, a detailed biodiversity analysis was implemented across a diverse (global) portfolio of real estate assets. This analysis, which uses data provided by the world's leading nature conservation organisations, offers a comprehensive overview of biodiversity value, legally protected areas, and the presence of threatened species. The approach included scoping risks, identifying gaps within existing risk assessments, assessing the potential for both threat abatement and habitat restoration, and prioritising sites for further evaluation. This preliminary screening aids in determining the need for engaging biodiversity specialists and developing targeted conservation strategies.



This map shows Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) in the Netherlands.

## Results

- Protected Areas:** identification of protected areas within certain buffers, highlighting several protected and biodiversity-sensitive areas requiring biodiversity risk assessment.
- Species:** preliminary list of priority species drawn from the IUCN Red List, including multiple critically endangered species.
- Habitat:** identification of habitats of significant importance to priority species that will trigger critical habitat status.
- Biodiversity Impact:** the analysis provides detailed insights into the potential for reducing species extinction risk and opportunities for habitat restoration, informing conservation priorities and actions.



Map showing areas surrounding Amsterdam highlighted with various nationally designated areas and specific IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) categories.

Conducting the analysis for APG's Amsterdam office serves as an illustrative example of how these type of assessments can be of value, even in urbanised areas. Despite its urban nature, the region around Amsterdam demonstrates significant biodiversity value and conservation potential. Within a 5 km and 10 km buffer around the Amsterdam office, the analysis identified 6 protected areas and 2 key biodiversity areas. In addition, the presence of 70 IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List species within these buffers were highlighted, including various amphibians, birds, and mammals that are Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered. This data underscores the need for targeted conservation actions and careful planning to mitigate potential impacts from development and investment activities.

## Outcome

The analysis was instrumental in identifying critical habitats and species at risk within the investment portfolio. It provided data that can guide the development of focused engagement and management strategies. The insights gained from this analysis can guide future actions and policies, serving as a model for integrating biodiversity considerations into investment strategies. The report serves as a first step, providing a set of conservation values sourced from global datasets, and should be followed by further investigation and due diligence, especially concerning national and/or local conservation priorities.

## Company

As the largest pension services provider in the Netherlands, APG looks after the pensions of 4.6 million participants. APG provides executive consultancy, asset management, pension administration, pension communication and employer services. APG works for pension funds and employers in the sectors of education, government, construction, cleaning, housing associations, sheltered employment organizations, medical specialists, and architects. APG manages approximately €569 billion (December 2023) in pension assets.

