Guideline Biodiversity -
Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystems in Grid Projects

Grid expansion is a central component for a successful energy transition. Nevertheless, powerline projects can potentially have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. Therefore, concerns for nature and species conservation are of high importance to us during the process of planning, construction, and operation of powerlines by Amprion GmbH. At every level of planning, we are committed to strict and responsible compliance with all legal requirements for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. For powerline projects, we are particularly guided by EU Directives and Regulations, the Federal Nature Conservation Act, and supplementary state legal provisions throughout planning, construction, operation, and maintenance. Our approach also contributes to fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17). Through our commitment, we ensure that conservation and species protection concerns are systematically considered in all powerline projects, thereby ensuring the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Our Goals:

1. From planning through construction to operation of our powerlines, we ensure the highest standards in the protection of biological diversity and ecosystems.
2. We conscientiously follow the precautionary principle as well as the avoidance and minimization mandate to keep negative impacts on the environment and nature as low as possible. For unavoidable negative impacts, we implement suitable restoration and compensation measures to prevent net losses in biodiversity ('no net loss').
3. Through our Integrated Vegetation Management and additional measures, we generate a positive value for biodiversity ('nature positive').

Our Strategies and Measures:

1. During the planning of grid expansion requirements, we consider the NOVA principle ('Netz-Optimierung vor Verstärkung vor Ausbau' - Grid Optimization before Reinforcement before Expansion). We prioritize the optimization or reinforcement of existing grid infrastructure over the expansion of new routes, thus reducing interventions in nature and the environment and associated CO2 emissions, conserving resources.
2. To identify and resolve potential conflicts early, ensure transparency, and optimize planning, we engage in early and continuous collaboration with local stakeholders, including conservation organizations, authorities, and the public. An open dialogue is important to us since it is the foundation for finding acceptable and consensual solutions.
3. The assessment and evaluation of the impacts of powerline projects on biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the development, implementation, and monitoring of necessary avoidance, restoration, and compensation measures, are carried out in collaboration with independent experts using recognized standard methods.
4. An environmental impact assessment is generally conducted in powerline projects in accordance with the EU Directive 2011/92/EU, which has been transposed into national law through the 'Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz'. All potential impacts on protected goods and areas are considered and assessed. Adapted measures ensure that all environment-related aspects are taken into account and significant negative impacts are avoided or minimized. Additionally, the compatibility with biodiversity-sensitive areas (including UNESCO World Heritage sites, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), and other protected areas) is considered.
5. We avoid interventions in nature wherever possible. The potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems are of high importance in our planning. Remaining interventions are minimized to

the necessary extent. Additionally, measures to reduce the intensity and scope of negative impacts are established.

6. For unavoidable significant interventions, we plan suitable restoration and compensation measures ('no net loss' approach). All measures are transparently documented in the landscape conservation support plan ('Landschaftspflegerischer Begleitplan, LBP').

7. We comply with the provisions for strictly protected species to avoid triggering legally described prohibitions aimed at preserving species diversity through the maintenance of natural habitats, wild living animals and plants of protected species. We avoid particularly sensitive phases such as breeding and rearing times as much as possible or developing proactive protection and continuous ecological functionality measures ('CEF') as required. Powerlines with a high risk for collision of birds are fitted with bird warning markers.

8. The compatibility of powerline construction projects with the conservation objectives of potentially affected NATURA-2000 areas is properly examined within the planning and official approval procedures according to the EU Directive 92/43/EEC. By establishing and implementing avoidance measures and, if necessary, coherence assurance measures, significant impairments of the areas are prevented, ensuring the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems in these regions. The compatibility of powerline construction projects is confirmed within the scope of preliminary or compatibility assessments.

9. During construction, we ensure ecological construction oversight to monitor compliance with conservation requirements.

10. Through our Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM), the preservation and development of biodiversity and ecosystems in corridors are ensured even after construction completion or in existing corridors. In many areas of our grid network, biodiversity is even enhanced through our Integrated Vegetation Management, resulting in a benefit for nature and its diversity ('nature positive' approach). On that basis, we conduct trimming activities only outside the vegetation period and avoid operations in ecologically valuable areas as much as possible.

The implementation of the guideline is accountable to OE G - Grid Projects. The guideline was adopted by the management on 21.07.2025 and has been in effect since then.

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