

NBS GOOD PRACTICE:

Integral Ecosystems in City Planning and Landscape Architecture

1. Using NBS for creating Integral Ecosystems in Urban Context

2. Context and rationale

BUUR is a leading multidisciplinary team consisting of urban planners, architectural civil engineers, landscape architects, spatial planners and mobility experts who are passionate about their work. From our offices, located in **Context and rationale**.



Leuven and Ghent, we are mainly active in Flanders and Brussels.

But the ambitions of our international oriented team go far beyond our local borders. BUUR is an acronym, meaning 'bureau for urbanism'. By choosing this name, we also want to give expression to our belief in the city as a social network.

Our expertise as urban planners enables us to deliver intelligent solutions to complex social issues which have a strong impact on our living environment. We do so by carrying out policy-preparing studies with regard to sustainable spatial planning; by elaborating dynamic and healthy cities; by creating the conditions allowing the transition from a linear to a circular economy; by realizing qualitative places adapted to a multicultural society; by doing research with regard to sustainability and by setting up polyvalent (transition) networks.

The urban planner as a partner in the transition process

We continuously expand our knowledge through a series of programs that are defined by important spatial challenges and social needs. One of these programs is "integral Ecosystems".

BUUR focuses on concepts and projects aiming the reinforcement of the functional and ecologic resilience of our space. We commit ourselves to handle our natural resources

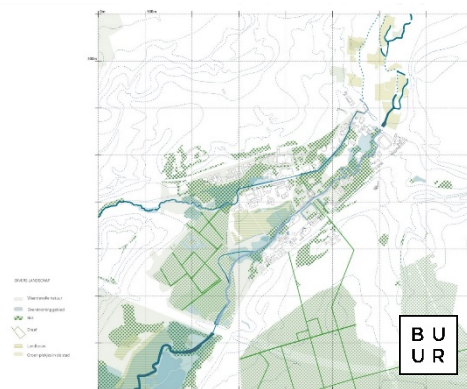
(sources of energy, food, materials, environment, flora and fauna...) with the utmost care. We want to achieve a maximum of quality while minimizing the impact on the environment, the society and the economy.

Within the scope of our projects, whether they are landscape projects focusing on the value of the nature and the biodiversity, or urban projects aiming the creation of a sustainable urban metabolism, BUUR elaborates an integrated vision for overall ecosystems, very often in partnership with external experts. Moreover, we apply our theories on every scale.

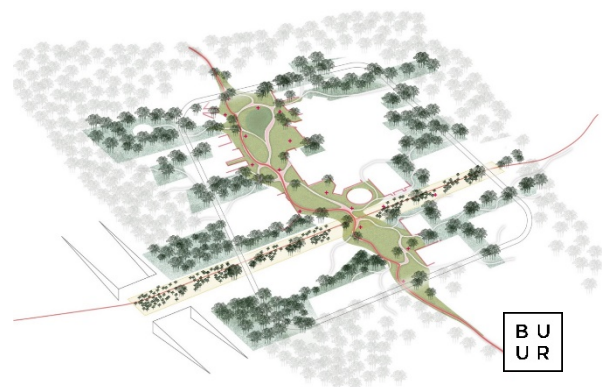
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Working with integral ecosystems plays a central role in the regional studies and visions that we made for the metropolitan coastal landscape (with Alterra) and the provinces of Flemish Brabant, East Flanders and Antwerp (with Atelier Romain). For those provinces we developed the concept of the 'cultural landscape', an integrated vision of landscape, built space and networks.

In our masterplans, we always provide maximum integration of landscape and green space. In this way we are working on a higher biodiversity in the built space and we can counter the fragmentation of the landscape and ecological corridors.



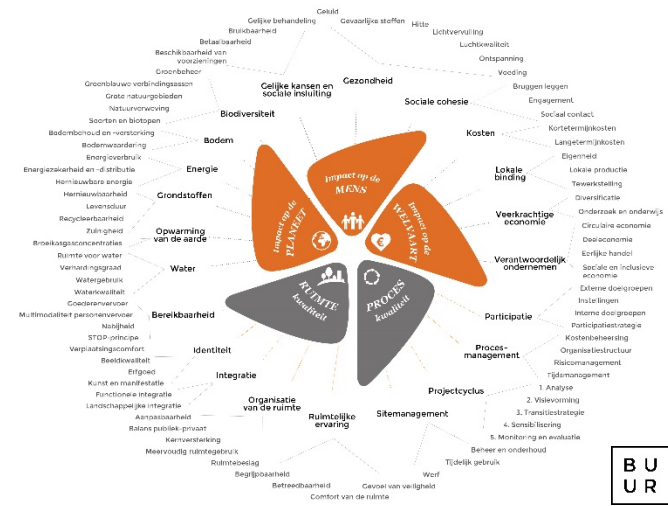
Certain projects truly have the ambition to become 'ecological neighborhoods':

3. An overview of the contribution.

Within its projects in Belgium and beyond, BUUR developed a framework for integral ecosystems in which we set high ambitions for reaching a healthy sustainable ecosystem. Climate adaptation is one of the top priorities in this framework. In our design and policy advise we have gained expertise on bringing the NBS into practice.

4. How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

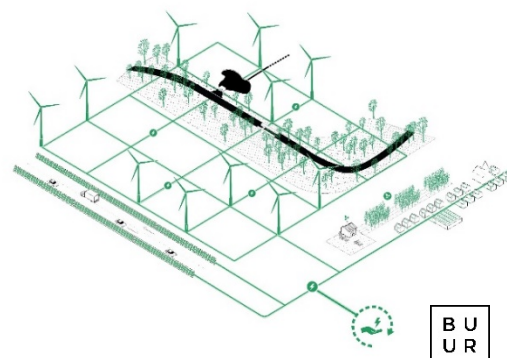
By passing every new project through an ecosystem scan, we make sure every possible solution is met with the highest possible ambition. Through research and design we are able to gather the knowledge on NBS and make sure it is implemented. We also take into account circular economy, renewable energy and have our own “sustainability compass” (duurzaamheidscompas, BUUR ©).



5. How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years.

- Increasing climate resilience by design

Impact on realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular SDGs 7,11,12,13,15). Minimising species extinction and ecological losses and fostering an increase of biodiversity. (Corridors GENK, wonderwoud)





Award winning project “Energy landscape Denderland”, check video [here](#)



Gent green pole “[Wonderwoud](#)”

6. Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?

BUUR cooperates with all levels of Belgium's governments, from federal to the local level.

7. How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?

8. Where can the contribution be put into action?

Our contribution IS action and implementation!



9. How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?

With our strong graphical skills, we can help other stakeholders in visualizing complex ideas into easily understandable ideas. This helps in convincing other stakeholders of the importance of NBS.

10. Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstreams?

Since we implement NBS on all scales, there is an overlap with energy transition, infrastructure cities and local action, resilience and adaptation, and mitigation strategy.



11. How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?



By following our high ambition on IES, we set examples for a climate adaptive public space.



12. What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)?

We work for private and public partners.

13. What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?

14. What is the communication strategy?

15. What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).

BUUR is an office with high societal ambitions, willing to be a partner in the development of NBS. Our added value in this project could be our graphic talent and ability to visualize complex processes so that it is easy to understand for all. We are looking forward to cooperate with more people with a passion for a healthy planet!

