

## Follow-up meeting YLFN

Hosted by:



### **What impact does your company have on the environment & what is the “Ecological” Footprint of your company?**

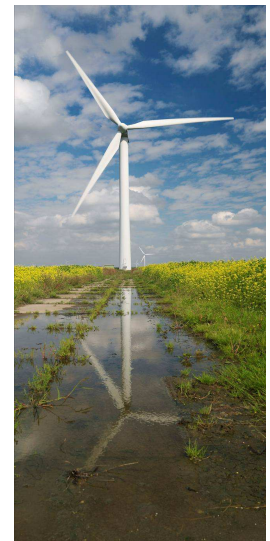
At the 23rd of April the first Follow-up meeting of the Young Leaders for Nature (YLFN) Forum was organised. The event was hosted by Arcadis and DHV. Turn up was quite divers with 45 Young Professionals from 12 different companies. Guest speaker was Pieter van der Gaag, head of the Unit External Communications at IUCN NL.

The objective of the meeting was to:

- Increase knowledge and awareness of ecosystems and the impact of participants and/or their organizations on these ecosystems;
- Have a starting point to address/decrease the impact of companies on ecosystems.

Programme of the day:

17:00	Registration & refreshments; drinks and food
17:45	Welcome Host (ARCADIS/DHV), LFN, IUCN NL
18:00	Table conversation – introduction to your peers about what has happened within your company since the last YLFN Forum
18:10	Presentation by Pieter van der Gaag Q&A plenary
19:00	Open space session – What do you want to work on?
19:20	Group break-out 1 – Think out of the box
20:00	Group break-out 2 – Zooming in; what are next steps
20:45	Feedback of open space session Round up of the Follow-up event
21:00	Drinks
22:00	End



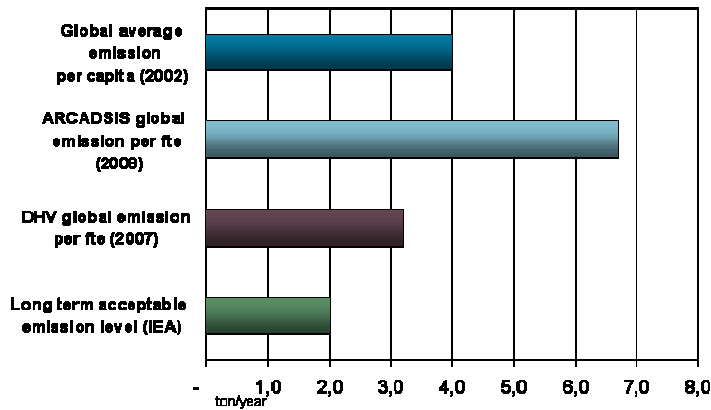
In this PDF you are able to find a short report of the event:

1. Welcome
2. Presentation Pieter van der Gaag – impact on biodiversity and ecosystems
3. Open space session

Welcome

**Footprint Arcadis & DHV – by Michiel Jaski (Board of Directors)**

Arcadis has a large footprint and is not very proud of it but there is room for improvement. Transport turns out to be the largest issue causing a fairly high global emission per fte (around 6,8 tons per year).



Arcadis is now translating their ambition of changing the impact they have on nature. They are implying sustainability in projects baring in mind five key success factors:

1. Awareness; keep working on raising awareness. There are still differences between countries regarding the awareness to sustainability.
2. Setting a good example; projects that demonstrate that sustainable entrepreneurship works e.g. New Orleans coastal protection project
3. Set several goals in one strategic move / action; convincing the top about a project by sustainability factors alone doesn't work. You have to combine and link economic with sustainability benefits.
4. Building coalitions; integrating coalitions in early stage of the project in order to make it successful.
5. Working where energy is present; change your focus to those that share the same energy which stimulates the mindset. Personal commitment remains essential.

**Table conversation – by Sandra Geisler**

Today we will discuss your impact on the environment and the 'Ecological Footprint' of your Company. The objectives are to have a better understanding of what is going on, to give tools and to meet others with whom you can join forces for scaling-up.

Round of sharing of what has happened in your company since the YLFN Forum of last January:



Thomas Walder – Arcadis

*An intranet was launched with around 50 employees on how to integrate sustainability into the daily integral services of what they deliver.*

Allard Froon – Philips

- *We have formed a partnership with Greenpeace to look into the recycling processes*
- *We are working on C2C projects*
- *We have launched a green vacuum cleaner, which is sold out in Germany*
- *We have had brainstorm sessions about operational efficiency building*

Paul Coppens – AkzoNobel

- *Increase awareness; striving to get 1000 sustainability ambassadors. Their role is to show initiative and to share best practices. Currently 200 people are active.*
- *Internal campaigns for sustainability*

### Impact on biodiversity and ecosystems – by Pieter van der Gaag

The presentation was about a methodology to implement a biodiversity policy at company level.

1. What is at stake
2. Instruments available

#### **What is at stake**

Humanity is causing the 6<sup>th</sup> extinctions crisis; we are currently seeing an exceptional quick loss of biodiversity. But what is biodiversity? In sort is the variety of life. The planetary system is made up out of a variety of ecosystems, which in turn are made up out of variety of species. Species disappearing weakens the ecosystems, and a weak system can't support the species. Resulting in systems to collapse.

This system is very much linked to us; we have impact on it and we depend on it. The ecosystems provide services like food, water, materials, etc. Without it, life on earth is not possible. Five factors impacting the ecosystems are:

1. Converting natural areas rich in biodiversity into cultivate, poor in biodiversity lands.
2. Hunting and harvesting more than what is available – overexploitation
3. Changing the climate
4. Polluting the environment
5. Invasive species



All this means that the loss of biodiversity in the past 9 years will cost us already 7% of world GDP. (Pavan Sukhdev)

### **Instruments available**

At IUCN NL we developed a methodology for companies to map their influence on biodiversity.

Step 1: What is the business case

Step 2: Develop policies on board level

Step 3: Carry out biodiversity assessment & identify key risks and opportunities (e.g. Ecosystem Services Review, Biodiversity Assessment Framework and Footprinting)

Step 4: Develop a strategy for implementation

Step 5: Develop / adapt Environmental Management System and tools

Step 6: Integrating the benchmark systems and establish partnerships with stakeholders.

Step 7 & 8: Anchoring biodiversity policy in the company model by implementing indicators in reporting models (GRI and CBD).



### **Open space session**

The open space session consisted out of two parts:

Group round 1 – think out of the box

Group round 2 – zooming in; what are next steps

The discussion was based on the questions “what are the central issues or problem definitions”, “what are some key insights or solutions” and “how and what does the follow-up of this action group look like?” During the Follow-up event the following action groups were formed:

1. Syn-City; reinventing urban development by synergizing all YLFN expertise
2. Teaching sustainability
3. Cross boundary collaboration in all business units
4. How to keep the momentum of action groups?
5. Think positive – opportunities of environmental degradation
6. How to improve next year’s YLFN Forum
7. Supply Chain footprinting



More information on the action groups can be found at the Leaders for Nature community; <http://leadersfornature.che.gaiaspace.org>. "Meshwork pages > Follow-up YLFN Forum – Open Space Index".

