

## Our commitment to preserving biodiversity and protecting against deforestation

**Preserving biodiversity and protecting against deforestation have been important topics for Deutsche Telekom for several years. We underline this with this voluntary commitment, concretized through a variety of measures along our value chain.**

One of the main causes of biodiversity loss and species extinction is the increasing use of land by industry, agriculture and transport. As a telecommunications company, we use little space compared to companies in many other industries. However, our business activities also have an impact in other areas of our value chain.

In order to determine these effects, we carried out a qualitative impact analysis. The positive and negative effects of Deutsche Telekom's business activities on various biodiversity parameters along the upstream and downstream value chain were assessed. This includes, among other things, deforestation, species protection, and ocean protection Ecosystems.

### **Our approach to sustainable purchasing**

The greatest impacts were identified in the raw material procurement of our upstream value chain. Deutsche Telekom opposes any activities, drilling, exploration or mining in or near areas with globally or nationally significant biological diversity. At the same time, our scope for action is limited because we do not produce our products ourselves. We expect our suppliers to be committed to protecting the environment and have been committed to minimizing the negative impact on biological diversity and deforestation since 2022 as part of the Supplier Code forests and water scarcity. This is regularly checked on site as part of social audits. Our suppliers should also place the same requirements on their subcontractors.

In order to minimize the impact in the area of raw material procurement and promote the circular economy, Deutsche Telekom has implemented take-back systems for mobile devices and landline devices. This allows the usage time to be extended and valuable resources such as precious metals to be returned to the recycling cycle. We are also striving to increase the proportion of recycled raw materials in the products we offer. We check the success of these measures using various KPIs. "Return of mobile devices" quantifies, for example, the proportion of mobile devices taken back in the number of devices brought onto the market. Our ambition is to continually increase this value. The current status of the KPI can be found in the current [CR report](#) be removed.

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### **Our climate strategy**

Energy production also has a strong impact on biodiversity, as climate change has a major impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. Telekom's active commitment to climate protection is therefore also a commitment to preserving biodiversity.

Climate protection is a fundamental component of the corporate responsibility strategy. This ensures that climate protection measures are closely linked to the core business. Our integrated climate strategy is based on four pillars: emissions from the value chain, renewable energies, energy efficiency and enablement (positive climate protection effects for our customers). We have defined objectives and key figures for each of the four pillars.

In the fight against climate change, we support, among other things, reforestation projects. Trees store CO<sub>2</sub>, produce oxygen, regulate water balance, and provide nutrition for countless species

habitat and thus promote biodiversity. Under "Magenta Forest" we bundle existing projects across the group and make it clear that many small gestures work together to achieve great things. We have already exceeded our goal of 100,000 trees planted. At the end of May 2022, 176,580 trees were planted by Deutsche Telekom and our employees as part of the "Trillion Tree Campaign". Our Green Pioneers Community is also dedicated to the topic of forestation. To make better use of the lawn area of technical facilities, a mini-forest was created planted, which promotes biodiversity at our facilities.

#### **Protection against deforestation**

However, we not only see ourselves as having a responsibility to contribute to forestation, but also to stop deforestation. Deutsche Telekom is committed to responsible use of forests and the raw material wood. We see our biggest impact in our paper consumption. Our "Paperless Office" project aims to eliminate paper as completely as possible across the group by 2025. To achieve this, we have introduced print-on-demand systems and provide payslips electronically. Also the ongoing one

Switching from print to online invoices is a good example of the biodiversity potential of digitalization. The majority of customers [already receive their invoice online](#). [Since 2018, we have only](#) purchased environmentally certified office paper through a paper wholesaler that has been awarded the "Blue Angel" or the "Nordic Swan" certificate.

#### **Impact of our services**

The provision of our services can also have an impact on biodiversity result. The basis of mobile communications is the use of electromagnetic fields for the transmission of voice and data. The effects of electromagnetic fields on your surroundings will be many researched and discussed publicly. The Federal Office for Radiation Protection states that, according to the current state of science, there is no evidence of negative effects if the limit values are adhered to.

Our subsidiary is responsible for expanding the infrastructure of our mobile network German radio tower, responsible. When selecting suitable locations, we take ecological aspects into account as part of the building permit process. At the same time, species and plant diversity is promoted. In collaboration with nature conservation authorities and the Nature Conservation Association Germany eV (NABU), Deutsche Funkturm plants trees and plants and promotes the habitats of native animals by installing nesting and bee boxes.

Storks nesting on cell phone towers in particular are not uncommon, as the towers offer good protection during the breeding season. In order not to disturb the animals, our maintenance intervals are adjusted and troubleshooting work is carried out as gently as possible. Deutsche Telekom works with NABU on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Our contribution to preserving biodiversity**

In addition, Deutsche Telekom considers other biodiversity issues such as water consumption and sustainable buildings and canteens to be very important, even if our footprint in these Areas limited:

- Sustainable Telekom buildings that save CO2 and are used optimally [\[Link\]](#)
- Resource efficiency in the workplace, including sustainable office products and reduction of waste in the canteens [\[Link\]](#)
- Employees take on sponsorships for flowering meadows on Telekom sites

- On our Telekom areas we avoid mowing the lawns as far as possible to protect rare plant species

We also offer numerous products and solutions to reduce this environmental impact, for example:

- ICT solutions support transparency about water consumption and water Management systems as well as animal tracking to protect endangered species
- Beehives networked through ICT solutions contribute to biodiversity through sensors  
Collect data from beehives and transmit it to beekeepers [\[Link\]](#)
- 5G supports the digitalization of agriculture [\[Link\]](#)
- Organizations such as Pro Wildlife eV, the Bavarian State Association for Bird Protection or the Hellabrunn Zoo, together with Deutsche Telekom, collect used devices and use the proceeds for species protection [\[Link\]](#)