BIODIVERSITY AND BIOPHILIA POLICY

emeis

Biodiversity : for the well-being of our residents, patients and employees

Integrating biodiversity and biophilia into our activities is a powerful tool in boosting the well-being of residents, patients and employees.

Numerous scientific studies have proven the **benefits of contact with nature** on both well-being and health.[1]

The construction of our facilities and their daily management have an impact on biodiversity and raise a number of issues such as soil artificialization, preservation of the fauna and flora, water pollution by drugs and even the management of green spaces as well as the use of phytosanitary products.

With this issues in mind, the Group is committed to biodiversity and biophilia as part of its environmental approach.

The case of hospitalizations

In contact with nature, with a view of the trees from their rooms, patients experience shorter stays in hospital[2].

Résidence Crampel, emeis nursing home, France

A word of the doctor

Well-being and health in emeis facilities : the benefits of contact with nature

The current environmental stress is a serious threat to our health, our quality of life, and our future. It has been scientifically proven that the richness of human-nature contact, especially with our fellow animals, is beneficial to our mental, cognitive, and physical health. Healthy life expectancy, and therefore the quality of life of our patients, residents, and staff members, is closely linked to these multiple relationships.

Our role as a major player in health care and support for the most vulnerable obliges us. We have therefore chosen to structure our medical and care activities, our real estate projects and our support functions with a particular focus on the environment, the living world, and biodiversity. These are three essential dimensions that we must be able to reconcile and respect in a sustainable development approach.

Pr. Pierre Krolak-Salmon
Group Medical Director

(1) Sources: Yoshifumi Miyazaki, Shinrin Yoku: The Japanese Art of Forest Bathing, 2018 / Roger S Ulrich, Health Benefits of Gardens in Hospitals, 2002 / Bjørn Grinde, Grete Grindal Patil, Biophilia: Does Visual Contact with Nature Impact on Health and Well-Being? 2009 / Alzheimer's Australia SA, Gardens that Care: Planning Outdoor Environments for People with Dementia, 2010 / Louis Bherer, Les bienfaits de la nature sur la santé globale, 2021 / Barcelona Healthcare Architecture, Jardines terapéuticos para el bienestar de las personas, 2022
(2) Source : Roger S. Ulrich, View Through a Window May Influence Recovery from Surgery, 1984

Biodiversity:
for the well-being of our residents, patients and employees

Preserving biodiversity: a global emergency

> Biodiversity is in an accelerated decline on a global scale: destruction of ecosystems (deforestation, disappearance of the Great Barrier Reef, etc), disappearance of plant and animal species (sixth animals mass extinctions), etc.

> 5 interdependent causes of biodiversity collapse identified: habitat fragmentation due to the soil artificialization, excessive exploitation of resources (water, forests, soil, seafood, etc.), climate change, pollution (air, soil, water) and invasive species.

-68 %

Global decline in vertebrate animal populations between 1970 and 2016[3].

1,26 M
hectares

of natural and agricultural land were urbanized in only 10 years in Europe between 2008 and 2018[4], the equivalent of 248 football fields/day.

25 %
of rivers in the world

contain concentrations of drug residues potentially harmful to ecosystems[5].

Biodiversity and biophilia: what are they?

Biodiversity
Diversity of living organisms at every level (ecosystems, species, genetics) and in the interactions between species and their environment.

Biophilia
An innate human need to be in contact with nature, resulting in benefits to the human body.

Grafenwörth, emeis Nursing Home, Austria

(3) Source : WWF - https://www.wwf.fr/vous-informer/actualites/rapport-planete-vivante-2020
(4) Source : Sustainable Urbanisation and land-use Practices in European Regions
(5) Source : University of York - https://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/research/global-study-pharmaceutical-pollution-rivers/

Commitment n°1
Enabling the interaction of residents, patients and teams with nature to promote good health and well-being

A. Strengthen contact with nature by integrating it into building design

> By ensuring that **outdoor spaces are adapted to the specific needs of users: secure and planted** areas, accessible to people with reduced mobility, equipped with tables, chairs and benches.

> By developing **therapeutic gardens** allowing a multi-sensorial contact with the vegetation: notion of cognitive stimulation and behavioral improvement (smell, touch...).

> By committing to making facilities' outdoor spaces **attractive places, conducive to relaxation and conviviality**, as well as to maintaining our **physical faculties**, particularly by encouraging walking amid nature.

> By favouring **natural light** in our facilities in order to contribute to the **respect of the day/night cycle**, which is particularly important for residents or patients with cognitive disorders, who have a loss of spatiotemporal markers.

Les Orchidées, emeis mental health clinic, France

B. Reinforce the contact with nature through the animations proposed to the residents and patients

> By **offering outdoor activities** throughout the year: sports, reading, games, lunch, walks...

> By organizing **educational activities** related to nature: farm excursions, construction and observation of insect shelters, logs...

> By developing the use **of non-medicinal therapies** based on contact with **nature and animals**, for example: therapeutic gardening, zoo-therapy, use of honey produced on site to heal wounds...

Commitment n°2
Preserve the diversity of natural ecosystems

A. Optimising water management

> **By helping to plant robust native water-saving species** suited to the climate, coupled with eco-responsible management to reduce plants' water evaporation: differentiated management approach, straw- and other mulching, etc.

> **By encouraging people to plant in-ground,** not in pots, which requires more water (excluding therapeutic garden planters).

> **By curbing spending on sprinkler irrigation designed for facility lawns,** and maintaining a temporary drip watering system as new plantations take root.

> **By installing small-capacity (<350l) rainwater recovery infrastructure in all facilities intended for activities,** events and the upkeep of small areas, e.g., balconies, patios and decorative indoor plants. In addition, all newbuilds within the Group will be fitted with large-scale rainwater recovery networks.

> By **equipping each new facility with separate metres** for irrigation and drinking water.

> **By tackling pollution of pharmaceuticals in waterways** by putting a stop to polymedication[6], and opting for non-drug therapies to treat and care for residents and patients alike.

B. Limiting the impact of catering on biodiversity

> **By tackling food waste and offering our residents and patients the option of a meat-free day** at least once a week to help reduce pressure on the environment and the land

> By favouring the purchase of **fish and meat labelled** as more respectful of nature, such as the **MSC label**[7] which encourages sustainable and respectful **fishing** marine habitats.

C. Participate in the fight against sealing soils

> By favouring **permeable surfaces for outdoor parking** in our new buildings, by taking care to calculate **the Biotope Coefficient per Surface**[8] before and after construction, by favoring the **implantation on already artificial (non-natural) sites and by maximizing the conservation** of the existing vegetation.

D. Develop and manage green spaces with an ecological approach, favouring a rich flora and creating natural habitats for fauna

> By Gradually **deploying «zero-phyto» management**[9] of green spaces in all our facilities and encouraging the use of alternative methods (e.g., eco-pasture).

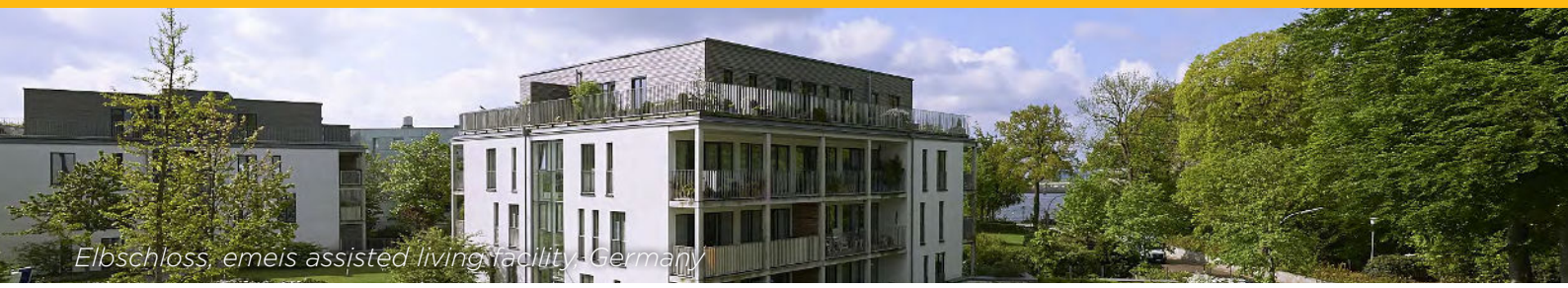
> By developing the use of **a differentiated management** of green spaces, favoring reduced maintenance intensity and a more natural development of vegetation, while preserving quiet zones for wildlife.

> In new constructions, by creating rich **landscape projects** anchored in the local environment, integrating the **4 plant stratification** (low herbaceous, high, shrubs and trees), **a plant palette** that favors **local species**[10], **shelters for fauna** (nesting boxes, insect shelters, etc.) and **meadow areas.**

> By controlling **light pollution**, in particular by using presence-detecting lights at night.

(6) Polymedication is the simultaneous administration of an excessive number of drugs. - (7) MSC = Marine Stewardship Council. - (8) Indicator showing the level of land and surface artificialisation in the project. - (9) The term zéro-phyto is commonly used in France to describe the maintenance of outdoor spaces without the use of synthetic phytosanitary products. Since 2014, the Labbé law prohibits the use of phytosanitary products in public green spaces. er Since July 1, 2022, this law applies to private properties, to places frequented by the public and to places for collective use. - (10) Website for identifying local plants.

Commitment n°3
Involve internal and external stakeholders in the preservation of biodiversity



Elbschloss, emeis assisted living facility - Germany

A. Contribute to raising awareness of biodiversity issues among our stakeholders, share our commitments and co-constructing solutions tailored to our facilities

> By carrying out **awareness-raising activities** throughout the year about biodiversity, particularly with residents, patients and their families.

> By raising the awareness among our employees **through training and fun workshops.**

> By encouraging **initiatives and the sharing** of best practices between facilities.

> **By conducting an annual biodiversity satisfaction survey** among Facility Managers focused on the upkeep of green spaces and among residents, patients and relatives regarding the quality of such spaces.

B. Develop and deploy internal operational tools to implement our commitments in the field

> By deploying a Biodiversity Specifications for new buildings.

> By deploying **an internal** biodiversity and biophilia **label** for operating facilities, called **BiophilGood.**

> By providing the teams with a **«Toolbox»** including action sheets.

C. Encourage the preservation of biodiversity along our value chain

> By including **a low-harm site charter** with a biodiversity component in the construction contracts for our buildings and by requiring the use of **FSC or PEFC certified wood[11].**

> By integrating into our supplier selection criteria the **Ecovadis CSR rating**, which, through its environmental pillar, takes into account respect for biodiversity.

> **By promoting organic waste management:** Incentivising the reuse of organic waste throughout the facility's green spaces; involving every service provider in a process to track recycling of organic waste exported by facilities.

> **By championing inclusion and boosting local economies by achieving the following targets:**

- All tenders for the "upkeep of green spaces" are to include mandatory consultation with at least one work reintegration company (helping people with disabilities return to work) or local professional integration organisation.
- 20% of green space contracts are awarded to an work reintegration company or local professional integration organisation.
- 70% of such contracts are signed with small regional businesses, located no further than 50 kilometres (31 miles) away.
- 100% robotic solutions, such as driverless robot lawn mowers, are strictly prohibited.
- All plants and plant seedlings are sourced preferably from local tree nurseries and sellers.

(11) Species naturally present in the biogeographic zone or in certain cases on the national territory concerned.

Pankow, emeis assisted-living facility, Germany

emeis's internal biodiversity and biophilia label

BIOPHIL GOOD

In order to monitor and share the progress of our facilities about biodiversity and biophilia, the Group has developed an internal label called **«BiophilGood»**. Developed in a collaborative process, this label recognizes emeis facilities that **encourage biodiversity and contact with nature.**

The standard is intended for facilities in operation. It is based on 3 main objectives:

- **>** Deploy facilities that promote contact with nature;
- **>** Promote the actions of animation and sensitization in relation with nature;
- **>** Improve the ecological quality of green spaces.

Three levels of labeling exist, from **to** **to be displayed at the entrance of participating facilities.**

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