

Crowdfunding for Limburg nature

University Fund Wageningen has joined forces with scientists to start a crowdfunding campaign to restore nature in South Limburg.

The money will be used for projects carried out by the Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation chair group. They want to restore wildlife corridors linking nature areas in the Geul Valley in South Limburg. They will work with relevant regional parties. Four years ago, the ecologists talked to farmers' organizations, municipalities, nature conservation organizations, the water board, the water supply company and the provincial authority to see how the landscape could be developed and managed differently, for example by mowing the verges at different times using different

methods. That was a success: wild bee populations increased and the shrill carder bumblebee returned. More money is needed for the follow-up. 'It's difficult to get grants for nature outside the Natura2000 areas, whereas we think that's precisely where the big gains can be made,' says Professor David Kleijn. 'The money from this campaign will let us restore landscape elements and thereby improve biodiversity. We can turn fragmented nature back into one large nature area.'

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PHOTO SHUTTERSTOCK