

## **2.1. Ecosystem Management**

### **General Principle**

Organic farming benefits the quality of ecosystems.

### **Recommendations**

Operators should maintain a significant portion of their farms to facilitate biodiversity and nature conservation.

A farm should place appropriate areas under its management in wildlife refuge habitat. These include:

- a. extensive grassland such as moorlands, reed land or dry land;
- b. in general all areas which are not under rotation and are not heavily manured: extensive pastures, meadows, extensive grassland, extensive orchards, hedges, hedgerows, edges between agriculture and forest land, groups of trees and/or bushes, and forest and woodland;
- c. ecologically rich fallow land or arable land;
- d. ecologically diversified (extensive) field margins;
- e. waterways, pools, springs, ditches, floodplains, wetlands, swamps and other water rich areas which are not used for intensive agriculture or aquaculture production;
- f. areas with ruderal flora;
- g. wildlife corridors that provide linkages and connectivity to native habitat.

### **Standards shall require that:**

**2.1.1** Operators shall take measures to maintain and improve landscape and enhance biodiversity quality.

**2.1.2** Clearing of primary ecosystems is prohibited.