

Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

Newsletter

August 2021 - Issue 12



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Headlines –

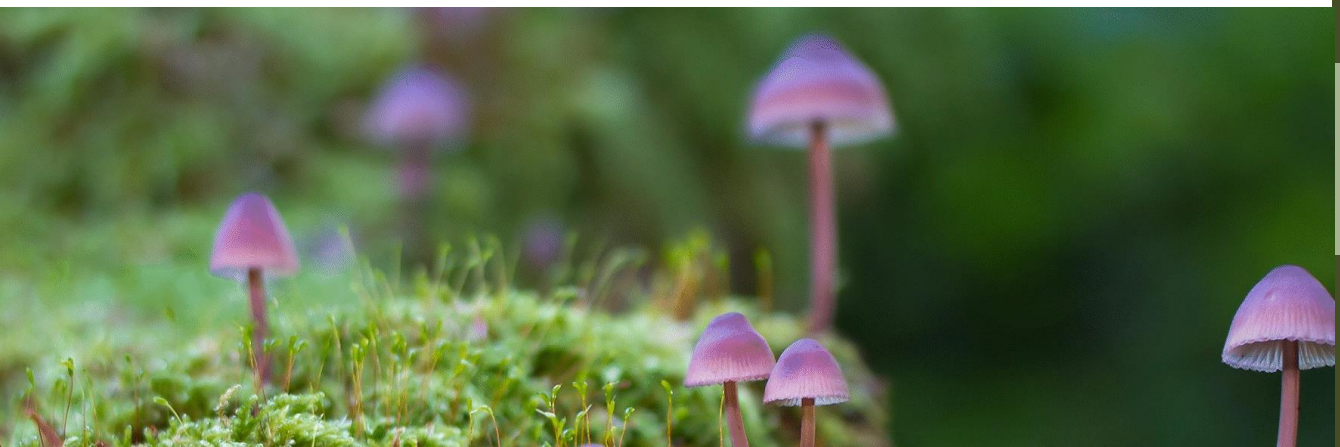
First detailed draft of the new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework released.

The Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has released the first draft of a new global biodiversity framework, to guide actions worldwide through 2030, to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people. The draft framework will undergo further refinement during online negotiations in late summer 2021 before being presented for consideration at COP-15, in Kunming, China.

The Framework comprises 21 targets and 10 ‘milestones’ proposed for 2030, en route to ‘living in harmony with nature’ by 2050. Key targets include:

- Ensure at least 30% of land and sea areas globally (especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people) are conserved through effective, equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas (and other effective area-based conservation measures).
- Prevent or reduce the rate of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by 50%, and control or eradicate such species to eliminate or reduce their impacts.
- Reduce nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, pesticides by at least two thirds, and eliminate discharge of plastic waste.
- Use ecosystem-based approaches to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to mitigation; and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.
- Redirect, repurpose, reform or eliminate incentives harmful for biodiversity in a just and equitable way, reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year.
- Increase financial resources from all sources by at least \$ 200 billion per year, and increase international financial flows to developing countries by at least \$10 billion per year. to developing countries.

[Click here to view the First draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)



Headlines –

Biodiversity: A Material Issue for the 48,6% on the IBEX 35



To what extent is biodiversity relevant to the IBEX 35?

That's what researchers at the Ecoacs Reserva de Biodiversidad and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) sought to understand in their report *Nature on the Spanish Stock Exchange*.

Their findings: **43% of the IBEX 35 listed firms mandate disclosure** policies and **30%** of Spanish listed companies **inform the public of biodiversity practices**.

The survey, based on key indicators, concluded that the energy sector places the most important consideration on biodiversity, followed by the basic materials industry with 53% and 24% (respectively) with each of these respondents stating they have biodiversity disclosure practices in place. The report, consisting of the survey, an analysis by sector, and recommendations for financial mainstreaming, provides essential insights into the growing consideration of biodiversity as a metric for investors.

Access the full report [here](#).



Headlines –

EU Adopts Proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)



On 21 April 2021, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which would amend the existing reporting requirements of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) and extend the scope to include all large companies and all companies listed on regulated markets (except listed micro-enterprises).

The proposal requires companies to comply with mandatory EU sustainability reporting standards, introduces a requirement for audit as well as digital tagging of reported information for integration into the market's union action plan.

Set for adoption by October 2022, the standards will be drafted by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and tailored to EU policies and international standardization initiatives. The new directives will vastly increase transparency, providing an invaluable overview for investors of sustainability-related risks to which companies are exposed.

Learn more about the European Commission's new directive [here](#).

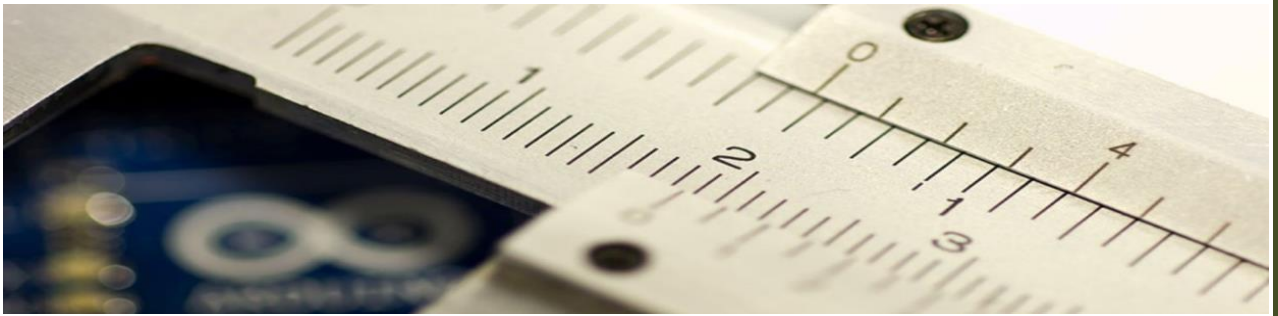


Headlines –

The Align project - Aligning accounting approaches for nature.

On 21 April 2021, the European Commission adopted a measure to support businesses, financial institutions and other stakeholders in developing standardised natural capital accounting practices, including a harmonized approach to biodiversity measurement. The project, funded by the European Commission, is led by WCMC Europe, the Capitals Coalition, Arcadis, ICF and UNEP-WCMC. The legislation is an important steppingstone in attaining the European Commission's 2050 goal of carbon neutrality.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the European Commission's efforts to support natural capital initiatives.



Integrating SDGs into Sustainability Reporting

Business-as-usual is fast undergoing a paradigm shift. Transparency is the new norm. In preparing for this rapid shift, the Global Reporting Initiative, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, provides invaluable and readily accessible tools for firms to improve reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Consisting of four guides, the themes addressed within the guides range from an analysis of the goals and targets, integration of SDGs into corporate reporting standards, and addressing investor needs in business reporting on the SDGs.

Learn more about improving your firm's SDG reporting by accessing GRI's guides [here](#).



Headlines –

The Third Report of the “Assessment of Biodiversity Measurement Approaches for Businesses and Financial Institutions” Series

The European Commission's Business @ Biodiversity Initiative seeks to build on the success and momentum of individual firms and financial institutions in measuring impacts to biodiversity. Their new Update 3 report, released 1 March, provides important interactive metrics and frameworks from Update 2 of the Assessment of Biodiversity Measurement Approaches for Businesses and Financial Institutions.

The 2021 report builds on the foundations established by the first two volumes (2018 & 2019) and takes the next crucial step in the evolution of biodiversity measurement approaches – testing and evaluating these approaches.

Update 3 provides a more interactive and comprehensive decision framework for selecting the biodiversity measurement tools and metrics which are fit for the specific context of a particular business or financial institution. With business applications and organizational focus areas still key considerations, the new update provides companies with tools that empower firms and financial institutions to measure all material pressures on biodiversity as well as progress against well-defined targets and ambitions.

Specifically, to provide tangible metrics and flexibility in addressing biodiversity targets and goals for senior management, this report proposes a Biodiversity Measurement Navigation Wheel, which offers multiple entry points for users to follow, rather than a prescribed sequential process that may not fit well with user needs.

Seeking to satisfy private sector demand for accessible biodiversity reporting and measurement infrastructure, the European Commission hopes that the report, and the accompanying Biodiversity Navigation Wheel provides firms and institutions with user friendly, flexible and adaptable models to facilitate their metrics, a vital step for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

Learn more about the Biodiversity Navigation Wheel [here](#).



Headlines –

Enhancing Smallholder Spice Farmers' Capacities in Sustainable Farming



GIZ, AVT McCormick and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) have come together to implement and develop a public-private partnership aimed at capacity building of spice farmers in India. The project, located in the four Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan, aims to establish stable spice supply chains and ensure that spice production practices are more economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, the project aims at reducing the impacts of spice monoculture on biodiversity. The project will work to develop Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) at the micro-landscape level with a focus on cluster-based implementation.

Headlines –

Reconnect to Nature Barometer



To transmit nature is to transmit well-being.

Researchers at BVA consulting have confirmed an individual's well-being is directly correlated to regular access to natural splendor. The first of its kind, the study, conducted with **19,000 citizens across 19 countries** quantified the link of an individual's sensory access and education about nature to its overall effect on five factors.

These include an individual's overall happiness, confidence in one's personal situation, ability to cope day to day, confidence in their country's situation and confidence in the situation of the planet. Specifically, the study asked respondents to place their connection to nature based on a sliding scale of 10 points measuring their degree of attachment to nature, their degree of knowledge of nature and what makes it as well as their degree of contact with nature. The result: nearly **80% stated that regular access to nature made them happier, more resilient individuals.**

Click [here](#) to learn more about the survey



Headlines –

Brazil's Engagement in the COP-15 biodiversity negotiations

In January 2021, the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS) and the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development (FBDS) launched the report “Brazil's engagement in the COP15 biodiversity negotiations.” The document, the result of multi-sectoral discussions, with the aims to provide recommendations to the Brazilian government on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework negotiations.

The report comes as a result of a series of workshops that took place from 16-18 June 2020 between the business sector and civil society actors, including the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The report provides three key recommendations for action and five strategic goals to be implemented.

These five goals and recommendations include zero net loss by 2030 in terms of area and integrity of terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, reduction in the percentage of threatened species with reduced extinction and increased abundance of these species by 2030 and 2050, genetic diversity and 2050, and the provision of benefits from nature to people to promote ecosystem services within the business sector and organized civil society. CEBDS and the Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development hope that the recommendations and strategic goals outlined in the report provide an invaluable foundation for discussion.

Learn more about CEBDS and FBDS strategic goals and recommendations [here](#).



Headlines –

Environment-Related SDG Indicators Course Registration

In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is now offering a new e-learning self-paced course on environment-related Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

Presented in 10 modules, the course provides an overview of the importance of monitoring the environmental dimension of development, the linkage with existing statistical frameworks (Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and System of Environmental-Economic Accounting), and how to use environment statistics in decision making. The modules also provide a brief overview on all 25 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators under UNEP custodianship. As such, the modules hopes to provide participants with the following three skills:

Describe key concepts relevant for environmental monitoring and SDG indicators;

Explain how respective environmental indicators are computed.

Discuss key challenges the participants' countries may be facing in compiling these indicators and actions that can be taken to address them.

The training constitutes an invaluable resource for members of Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Offices.

For more information on course registration and content, please consult UNITAR's offering [here](#).



Headlines –

We Value Nature's New Training Material on Natural Capital for the Food and Beverage Sector

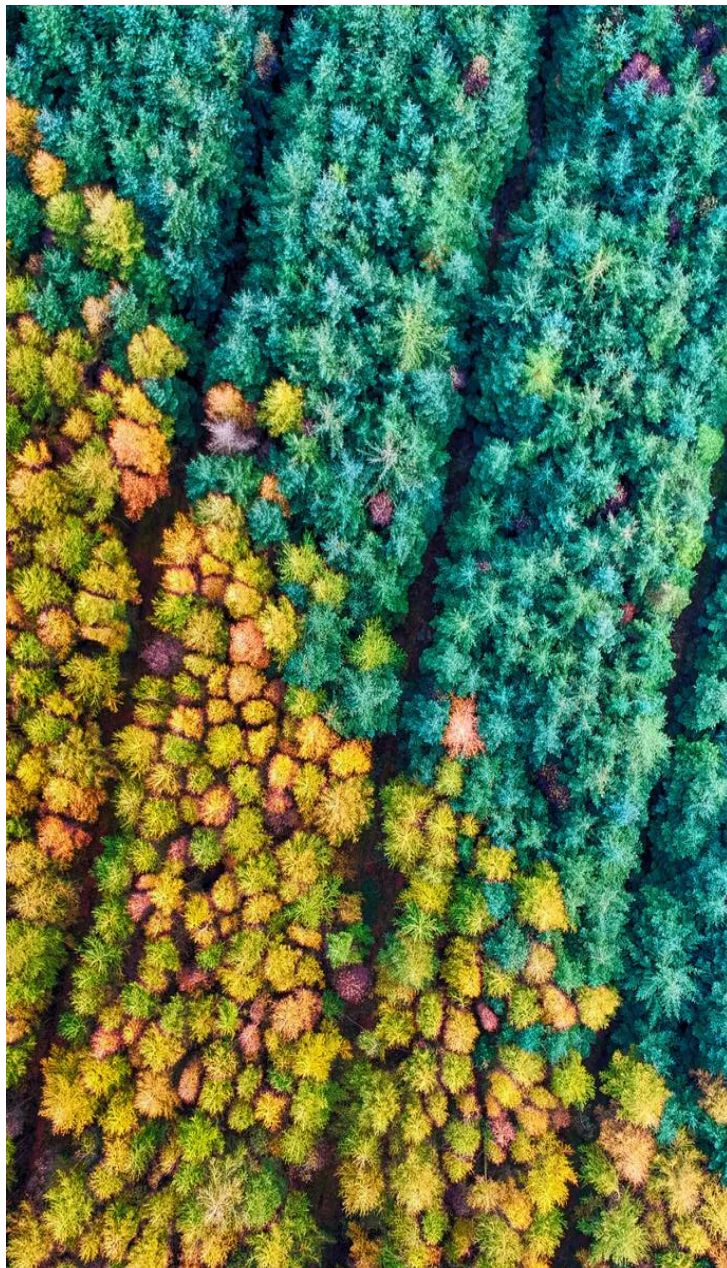
Available in late 2021, We Value Nature has developed three training modules for the Food & Beverage sector centered on the Natural Capital Protocol, a decision-making framework that enables organizations and businesses within the food and beverage sector to identify, measure and value their direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on natural capital.

The training materials are in response to the natural capital crisis, which is also a business crisis. Firms have recently begun to recognize the need to better identify, measure, value and prioritize their impacts and dependencies.

Recognizing the overwhelming nature of measuring impacts and dependencies, We Value Nature's three training modules break down the natural capital journey into concrete and manageable steps. As such, the training materials provide logical and practical guidance on key steps, approaches and tools to integrating natural capital in decision-making.

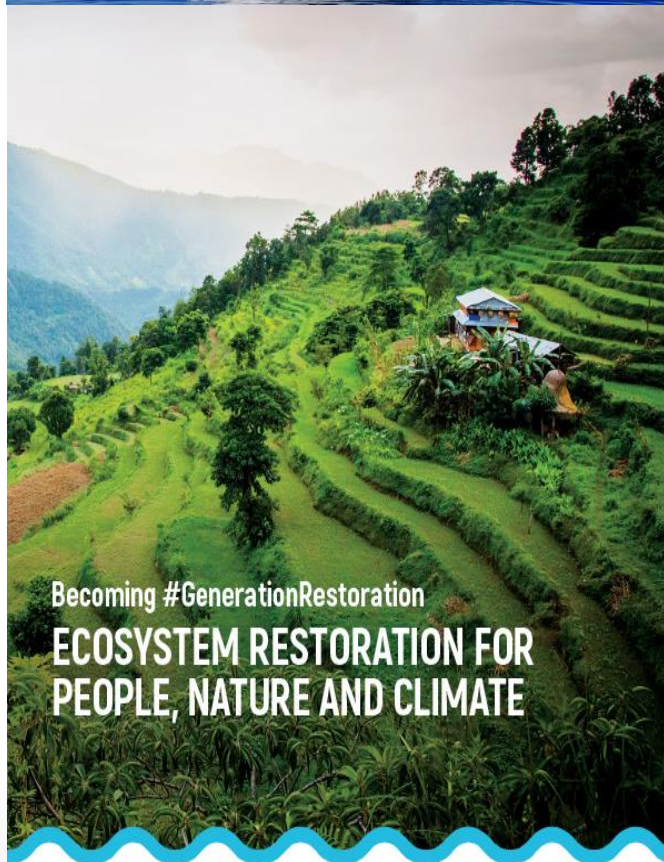
The modules have been geared towards businesses, organizations or colleagues within the food and beverage industry that are in the early stages of their natural capital journey. They address such themes as an overview of natural capital, importance for business and how to integrate it into business decision-making.

Learn more about We Value Nature's Training Materials on Natural Capital [here](#).



Headlines –

#GenerationRestore; A Call to Action for World Oceans & Environment Day



The key message from the 2021 World Environment Day resonated around the globe: Flourishing ecosystems are fundamental to our existence. In her seminal speech at the UN Virtual Gala, Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said that the solution to our current climate and biodiversity challenges can be solved by ensuring thriving and biodiverse ecosystems: “Ecosystem restoration can help bring back lost biodiversity, create productive land for agriculture, provide jobs, restore nature’s buffers against zoonotic diseases, and helps vulnerable communities adapt to a changing climate.” To help mark the day, UNEP’s like-minded community of public to private partnership’s actions spoke louder than words: “Dove and Conservation International committed 8.5 million Euro to protect 20,000 hectares of forest in North Sumatra, Indonesia. BYJU’S, a leading Indian educational technology company with over 90 million users, joined with UNEP to launch a platform to educate young minds on ecosystem restoration.” World Environment Day also saw the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the goal to “reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.” The 2021 World Oceans Day emphasized the importance of aquatic ecosystem services, and the need for cross-sector partnerships that prove vital in protecting all related ecosystems.



Learn more about World Oceans Day, World Environment Day and the UN decade on Ecosystem Restoration by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

Headlines –

New Guide For Financial Sector: Mobilizing For Nature

Released on June 30th, *The New Financial Sector Guide for the Convention on Biological Diversity* aims to mobilize financial institutions to ensure a nature positive world, by fostering better understanding of nature's importance for the financial sector.

The guide, which is geared towards all financial institutions, stakeholders and partners, is the result of a collaboration between the CBD and four partners representing businesses and the private financial sector: Business for Nature, Finance for Biodiversity Pledge, PRI and the UNEP FI.

"The financial community has a critical leveraging role to pivot economic sectors towards more positive impacts on nature." -Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary

As outlined in the guide, members of the financial sector can contribute to curbing nature loss and aligning their financial flows to nature positive outcomes by:

Setting targets in line with global goals and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Advocating for an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Collaborating with initiatives in favor of biodiversity such as *Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)*, the *UN Environment Programme's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)*, *Business for Nature* and *Finance for Biodiversity Pledge*.

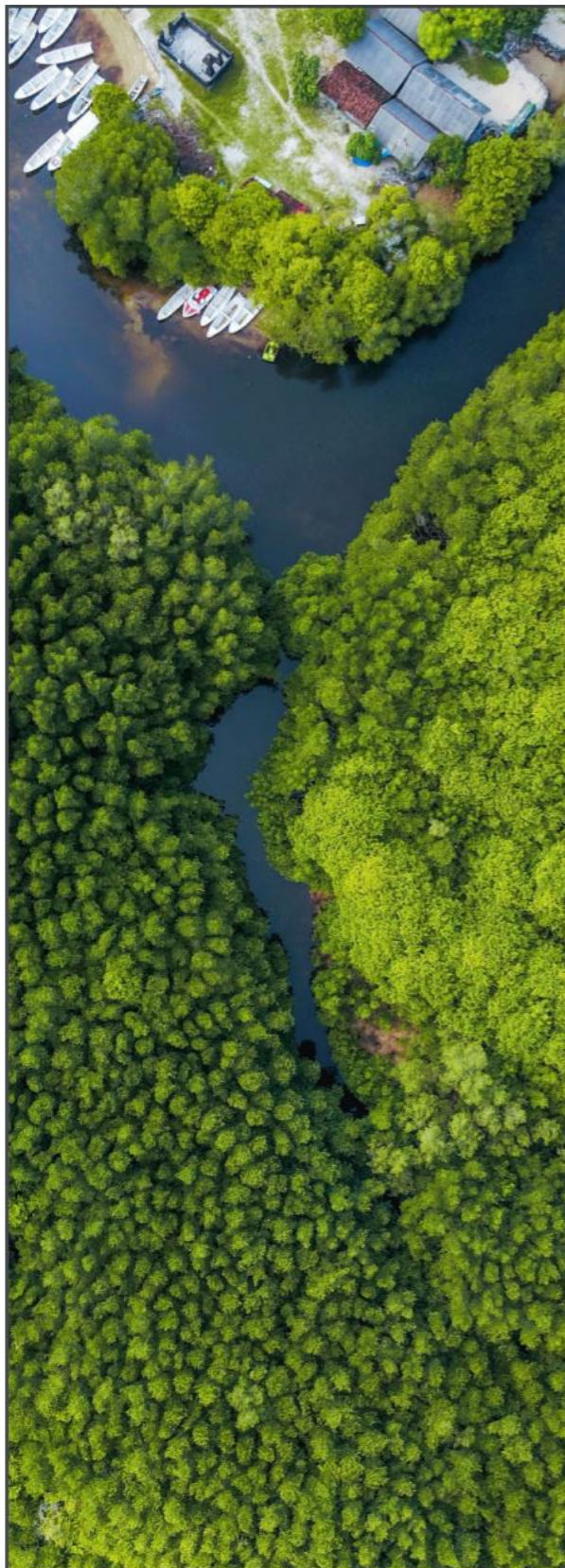
Adapting their investment strategies and engaging with companies.

Assessing & reporting publicly on positive and negative contributions to biodiversity.

Continued biodiversity loss puts global economies at risk, and the financial sector, significantly exposed to nature, has a critical role to play to transform the current financial system, with a view to aligning financial flows for a nature positive world.

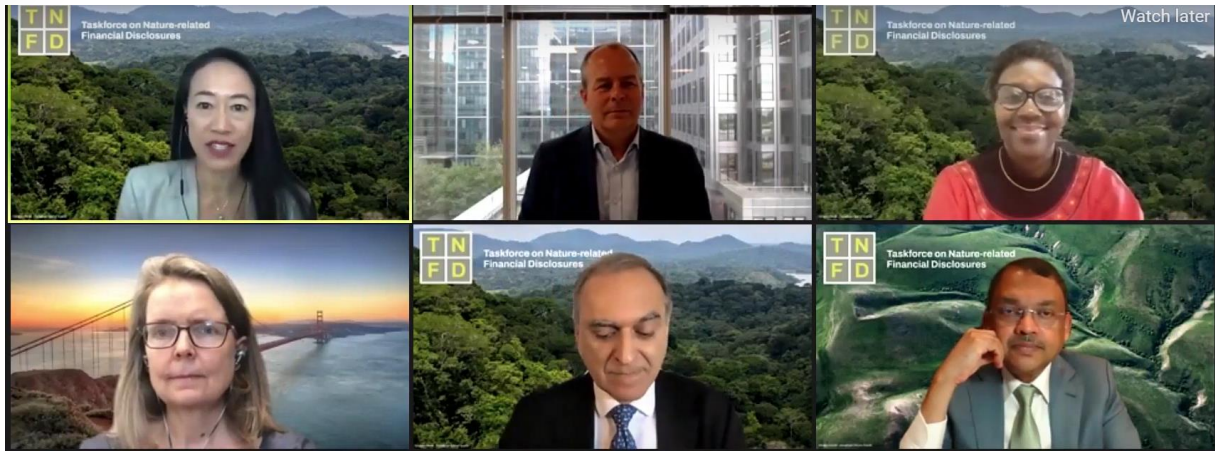
The guide, particularly timely as the world presently negotiates the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, due for adoption later this year in Kunming, China.

Access the new guide for the financial sector [here](#).



Headlines –

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)



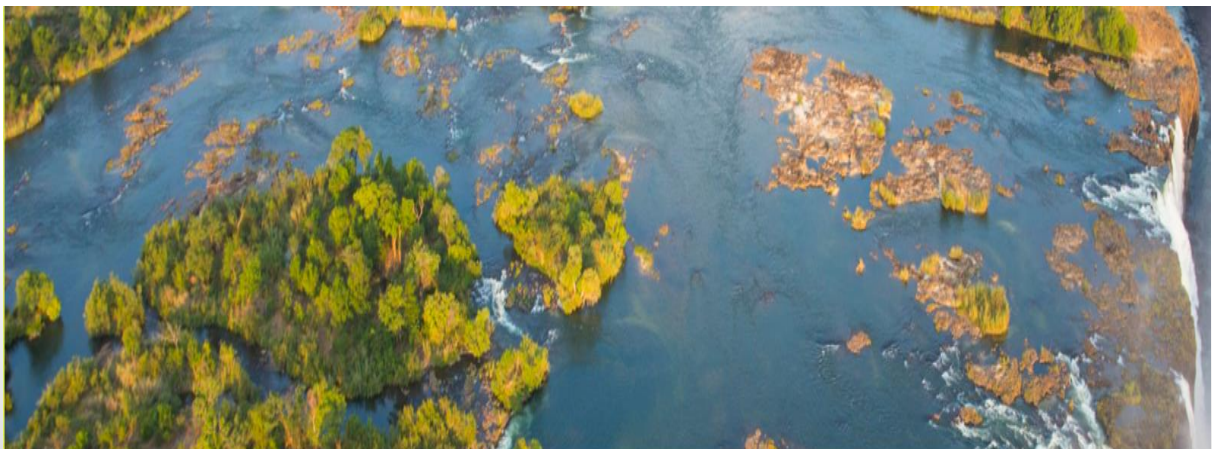
Led by Executive Secretary Elizabeth Maruma Mrema of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and David Craig, Former CEO and Founder of Refinitiv and Strategic Advisor to London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is a new global initiative which aims to give financial institutions and companies a comprehensive overview of environmental risk.

By 2023, The TNFD will deliver a framework for organizations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, in order to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes.

Consisting of a membership of 30 financial institutions, corporations from developed and emerging markets, the taskforce will also be informed by a diverse stakeholder group – consisting of governments, regulators, multilaterals, financial and business consortia, NGOs, think tanks and research organisations.

The framework as well as the information afforded by the task-force will be a vital instrument for financial institutions and companies to incorporate nature-related risks and opportunities into their decision-making processes.

Learn more about the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) [here](#).



News from the Secretariat –

Post-2020 Process Update



- In preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) in Kunming, China, virtual sessions of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24) and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and (SBI-3) were held from 3 May 2021 until 12 June 2021, addressing critical topics related to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Topics of discussion included resource mobilization, capacity building, reporting mechanisms, mainstreaming, as well as a review of the implementation of the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols.

To learn more about SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3, click [here](#) and connect to our YouTube channel [here](#).

- **The Third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework** will take place virtually from August 23 to September 3. This process is expected to lead to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the UN Biodiversity Conference later this year, in Kunming, China.

Information about OEWG-3 can be accessed [here](#)

OEWG-3 webpage can be accessed [here](#)

Fist Draft of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is available [here](#)

News from GPBB –

Integrating Biodiversity into Business Strategies: Experiences and Hands-On Tools

For businesses, the services provided by nature are at the basis of every economic process. As such, businesses can play an important role in combating the causes of biodiversity loss. With presentations by the Nature Fund (GNF) and Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT) on 20 April 2021 the online seminar “Integrating biodiversity into business strategies experiences and hands-on tools” showcased successful experiences in the use of tools for incorporating biodiversity into business activity.

Specifically, experts from GIZ Global presented promising instruments that have proven to be successful, accessible and easy to use. Amongst the tools presented, GIZ demonstrated the efficacy of the Biodiversity Checks, Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and the BAP-Monitor. Moreover, representatives from Del Monte Foods, Danone, AVT McCormick and ECORED shared their experiences and success stories in implementing these tools into their company activities.

The session was organized by the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity in collaboration with three projects implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH: the Business and Biodiversity in Central America and Dominican Republic program funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as the Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Mexican Agriculture (IKI-IBA) and the Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB) projects, funded by the German Federal Ministry for The Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through its International Climate Initiative (IKI)

To learn more about the strategies and hands on tools presented during the seminar, please access the online recording [here](#).



News from GPBB – Private Sector Engagement in Multi- Stakeholder Partnerships for Biodiversity.



With the extinction of 83% of wild mammals and 50% of plants, the threat of biodiversity loss is of great importance for corporate and financial stability. Through multi-stakeholder partnerships, businesses can play an important role in combating the causes of biodiversity loss and safeguarding vital ecosystem services.

Organized by the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity (GPBB), in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the German Federal Ministries for Economic, Cooperation, Development and Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, and GmbH: the Business and Biodiversity in Central America, Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Mexican Agriculture (IKI-IBA) and the Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB) projects, an online seminar on the 17 June showcased successful private sector engagement in multi-stakeholder partnerships sought to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships involve organizations from different sectors working together, sharing risks and combining their unique resources and competencies in ways that can generate and maximize value towards shared partnership and individual partner objectives. Such objectives are often attained through more innovative, sustainable, systemic and efficient approaches.

Multi-stakeholder private sector partnerships play a crucial role in biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation as well as guaranteeing the sustainability of businesses.

To learn more about multi-stakeholder partnerships, access the 17 June webinar recording [here](#).



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

News from GPBB –

Biodiversity Partnership In Mesoamerica: Building During Lockdowns In a Fragmented Region.

At a time when the urgency of restoring and conserving biodiversity together with measures to mitigate the impact of climate change is resoundingly clear, the focus on partnerships and cooperation has proven to be the right path, even under the restrictive conditions of the pandemic.

I would like to single out a few examples for this short article. From initial contacts six months ago with the regional offices of the FAO, we jointly developed a series of webinars on business and biodiversity for a regional audience in Mesoamerica, a region facing the challenge of relatively low levels of collaboration and coordination.

With Mesoamerica facing such institutional challenges surrounding biodiversity, we were able to recruit outstanding experts and examples for our three topics:

- **Agriculture with biodiversity**
- **Eco and agro-tourism**
- **Investments and incentives for business participation.**

These webinars attracted thousands of participants and demonstrated the potential of this collaboration to both partners, especially when we urgently need to transform the way governments, communities and businesspeople think and act.

We have made it our priority to develop MOUs with environment ministries, with UN agencies, leading environmental NGOs, chambers of commerce, and the cooperative movement. These agreements can act as a springboard to engage with businesses and authorities and to execute our primary purpose: To motivate and support businesses to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, in collaboration with all parties with a similar focus.

Another type of partnership that is showing great promise is emerging: Collaborations among our members to create commercial opportunities and innovate while simultaneously integrating the custody of nature as an essential part of their relationship.

So, will golden opportunities emerge from the hardships and tragedies of the COVID pandemic? We believe that is possible if we work hard enough!

-George Jaksch

Mark Your Calendars – IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 Rescheduled for September 2021 in Marseille.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the French government have agreed to hold the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille.

Held every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together several thousand leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business and academia, with the goal of conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges.

The Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development. The IUCN Congress engages all parts of society in order to share both the responsibilities and the benefits of conservation.

The Congress will be a key milestone for nature conservation and the development of a new global framework for biodiversity. The French government and IUCN remain steadfast in their commitment to these goals.

More information about the implications of the new dates can be found on the [Congress website](#).



Resources & Reports

<u>Integrating Biodiversity into Natural Capital Assessments</u>	<u>Financial Sector Guide for the Convention on Biological Diversity</u>
<u>Making Peace with Nature</u>	<u>Finance For Biodiversity: Guide on Biodiversity Measurement Approaches</u>
<u>Measuring the Impact of Agricultural Supply Chains on Biodiversity</u>	<u>Finance and Biodiversity: Initiatives for financial Institutions</u>
<u>Mitigating Biodiversity Impacts Associated with Solar and Wind Energy Development: Guidelines for Project Developers</u>	<u>Biological Diversity Protocol</u>
<u>Paving the Way towards a Harmonized Biodiversity Accounting Approach for the Financial Sector.</u>	<u>Biodiversity Performance Tool and Monitoring System</u>
<u>Strengthening Synergies</u>	<u>Global Biodiversity Outlook 5</u>
<u>The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review</u>	<u>Guidelines for Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance</u>
<u>The State of The World's Forests</u>	<u>Handbook for Nature-related Financial Risks: Key Concepts and Framework for Identification</u>



Global Partnership

for Business and Biodiversity