

# **Make biodiversity action everyone's business**

**Toolkit for delivering sustainable  
global value chains**





## Acknowledgements

ICC United Kingdom would like to thank all the contributors for sharing their business cases.

# Contents

---

## 2 Contents

---

## 4 Introduction

---

## 7 Biodiversity

---

- 8 Nature Positive Business Pledge
  - 10 Biodiversity checklist for businesses
  - 14 Woodsmith Project
- 

## 15 Biodiversity

---

- 16 Greene King's biodiversity
  - 19 Creating spaces for nature to thrive
- 

## 25 Circular economy

---

## 27 Sustainability reporting frameworks

---

- 28 Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
  - 32 TNFD recommendations and guidance
  - 35 TNFD screening and prioritisation exercise
- 

### Copyright © 2024 International Chamber of Commerce UK (ICC United Kingdom)

ICC United Kingdom holds all copyright in this collective work, and encourages its reproduction and dissemination subject to the following:

- ICC United Kingdom must be cited as the source and copyright holder mentioning the title of the document, © ICC United Kingdom, and the publication year
- Express written permission must be obtained for any modification, adaptation, or translation, for any commercial use, and for use in any manner that implies that another organisation or person is the source of, or is associated with, the work
- The work may not be reproduced or made available on websites except through a link to the relevant ICC web page

Permission can be requested from ICC United Kingdom through [advocacy@iccwbo.uk](mailto:advocacy@iccwbo.uk)



This toolkit shares business insights, knowledge, and tools to support a green transition, by focusing on key sustainability and environmental topics — biodiversity, circular economy, net zero, climate contract clauses, supply chain digitalisation, and sustainability reporting frameworks. It is designed to be a resource for businesses seeking to embed sustainability as a core component in operations.





# Introduction

The private sector has a key role to play in accelerating sustainable development and tackling climate change and biodiversity loss and has a responsibility to help drive transformative change.

As the institutional representative of over 45 million businesses, ICC is uniquely placed to input into international processes, by providing business expertise and experience on the development of coherent policy frameworks, solutions, and tools needed. With our planet and its people under threat by the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, integrating sustainability into business operations offers alternative and innovative ways of doing business — aligning with ICC's purpose to enable business to secure peace, prosperity, and opportunity for all.

**“Businesses have more to gain from climate action than from climate inaction. The practical tools from the ICC community distilled in this toolkit can help any organisation advance its sustainability journey.”**

Stuart Bruce, Chair, ICC United Kingdom  
Energy and Environment Committee

**The transition to a sustainable, green economy is a priority for all businesses and consumers. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events over the last 12 months and the continued global decline in biodiversity is a reminder to us all and the need to take action.**

Globally, an average of around 25 per cent of species are threatened, with around 1 million species facing extinction unless action is taken to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss. Roughly 75% of the land and about 66% of the marine environments have been significantly altered, with climate change being one of the top drivers of biodiversity loss. In 2022, governments agreed to take action and signed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which sets out four goals and 23 targets to reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030. Businesses play a critical role in supporting and delivering the implementation of these targets.

As the largest world business organisation, ICC continues to play a vital, leading role in designing the rules and standards frameworks we need to make the transition to becoming more sustainable in the way we do business. We also continue to play a vocal role in holding governments to account for the action they need to take on biodiversity and climate change.

Critically, ICC is also able to harness and showcase the tremendous experience of its network to help other organisations on their sustainability journeys.


This bespoke biodiversity toolkit is intended to do just that. It will be a useful reference for companies making the transition to becoming more sustainable, learning from international best practice and integrating the value of biodiversity into the way they work. It includes a nature positive pledge to help businesses set a direction and a simple checklist of actions all businesses (large and small) can take. Key to real progress will be actually implementing these ideas, and others, along the journey towards more sustainable business models and allocation of capital to meet evolving stakeholder demands.

Not taking action is therefore no longer a credible option if we are to reduce risks and costs to our economies and ensure the next generation is given the chance to have a prosperous future and benefit from the opportunities a green economy creates. We'd like to convey a special thank you to all those who have contributed to the toolkit. If you would like to know more about ICC or the UK Business & Biodiversity Forum (UKBBF) and what we do to promote sustainability, please get in touch.

**Chris Southworth**  
Secretary General,  
ICC United Kingdom

**Mark Johnston**  
Director, UK Business  
& Biodiversity Forum



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a vast, green, and rocky landscape. The river is surrounded by lush vegetation and large, dark rocks. The water is a deep blue-green color. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

**“Biodiversity is under threat, and the continued loss of biodiversity and the impact from climate change represent a major risk to society, economic growth and sustainable livelihoods — transformative and collective action is urgently needed, actions that not only halt the decline in biodiversity but also strive to be nature positive.”**

Mark Johnston, Strategy Lead for Nature Based Solutions & Biodiversity, BP and UK Business & Biodiversity Forum Founder



# Biodiversity

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is a term given to the variety of life on earth in all its forms and all its interactions, which is conducive to functioning economies and ecosystems. Biodiversity is essential for the health of our planet — amongst many other services it contributes to clean air and water, climate regulation, food security, the pollination of crops.

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference, COP15, saw the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect indigenous rights. The plan includes measures to halt and reverse nature loss, including putting 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems under protection by 2030.

The private sector plays a significant role in influencing biodiversity. Nevertheless, the mainstreaming of biodiversity remains a global challenge, due to the difficulties in translating good practices for integrating biodiversity

into business strategies and operations. However, the private sector has a crucial role to play in safeguarding biodiversity — from sustainable resource management such as responsible farming, driving innovation to develop technologies that address conservation challenges, ensuring supply chains adhere to sustainable and ethical sourcing practices, aligning business strategies with biodiversity protection and collaborating with stakeholders such as investors and governments. The private sector must take responsibility for their environmental impacts to contribute to global conservation efforts.



# Nature Positive Business Pledge





# THE NATURE POSITIVE BUSINESS PLEDGE

*‘On a journey to bring nature back’*



## About the pledge

The Nature Positive Business Pledge is a commitment by business to halt and reverse impacts on nature.

The pledge helps businesses to take steps to understand their impacts and dependencies on nature through their entire value chain and with increasing ambition.

The Nature Positive Business Pledge provides guidelines and a set of clear principles to help businesses deliver benefits for nature and business, whilst contributing to wider societal and environmental goals.

Take the Nature Positive Business Pledge  
at [business-biodiversity.co.uk](https://business-biodiversity.co.uk)



# Biodiversity checklist for businesses

Nature is under threat. Governments, society, and businesses (large and small) must play an important role in reversing the loss of nature. According to the World Economic Forum 55% of global GDP relies on what nature provides. Your business, either directly or indirectly impacts and depends on nature — whether from the resources your business buys, the products your business sells, or the operations your business runs — from water for manufacturing or paper and plastics used for packaging and much more.



Here we provide some simple, practical tips businesses can start to take action on in order to contribute to the global goals and targets to halt and reverse nature loss.

## Actions all businesses can take

### Action 1: Raise awareness and understand the importance of nature

Engage people from all parts and levels of your business to understand how your businesses interfaces with nature.

### Action 2: Develop a purpose and a Nature Action Plan

Taking action on nature makes business sense. By staying ahead of the curve businesses will be able to manage business risk and gain a competitive advantage. **Set your business purpose and plans to take action.**

### Action 3: Contribute to nature positive action in society

Use your company network and wider sphere of influence to raise awareness, support and accelerate action on nature in society, and connect with local conservation groups, such as the Wildlife Trusts or the RSPB, or with businesses geared to providing solutions like yours.

## Actions in your own operations

### Action 4: Avoid and reduce

Aim to avoid having an impact on nature in the first place — it is the more cost effective than trying to remediate later. Take action to avoid using products not from a sustainably certified source, reduce water use, reduce waste, reduce emissions, and reduce pollution to air, water and land.

### Action 5: Enhance and remove

Enhance biodiversity around your site, such as setting aside an area for nature, erecting bird and bat boxes, planting trees and shrubs that are good for wildlife. On your site, prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, remove invasive already present, and only use local native species when landscaping.

## Actions in your supply chain — suppliers

### Action 6: Understand where your products are coming from

What raw natural products is your business using and where are they coming from in your supply chain? Avoid and reduce negative impact on biodiversity upstream and downstream.

### Action 7: Incorporate nature clauses into your contracts with suppliers

Have your suppliers taken nature-positive action? Do they hold nature positive certifications, such as RSPO for palm oil, FSC for card and timber.

### Action 8: Source from certified sustainable sources

Maximize, where possible the use of products which are from certified sustainable sources, such as timber, palm oil.



## Actions in your supply chain — customer

### **Action 9: Raise customers' awareness, understanding and engagement with nature**

Help raise awareness and understand of the importance of nature, the products you are using and where they are coming from with your customers.

### **Action 10: Being transparent**

Provide data to your business customers (subject to commercial sensitivities), on the natural resources in your products, including volumes and source (for example, volumes of critical minerals used in a product, or volumes of water used in processing) Why? Users of your produced may be mandated to disclose this information.

## Sharing your actions

Which is also a great way to market your products and services!

### **Share your commitment**

Encourage other SMEs in your network to join you by taking the action for nature and Nature Positive Business Pledge and participation in the Local Nature Recovery Networks.

### **Share your story**

Get recognised for your work and inspire other SMEs by sharing your examples of nature positive success in the social media.

### **Invest in nature**

Consider investing in nature-based businesses, rewilding and technical innovation, biodiversity credits, and seek new green finance opportunities.





## ...and go further

### Option 1: Estimate your business impact

Businesses can more effectively take action when they understand impacts on nature — identify where and how your business impacts nature. Consider direct and indirect impacts from your operations: water run off, impact on air quality and indirect impacts from business & employee activity.

### Option 2: Commit and set targets

Once you know your impacts and use of natural resources (such as water, plastics, or timber), set targets to avoid and reduce these impacts and use, and if necessary, restore or offsets.

### Option 3: Measure and disclose

Measure the impact your activities are having and disclose your progress towards the targets, ideally using metrics which your supplier and your customers also use, such as the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures' (TNFD) core metrics.

## Additional resources and tools

### UK data sources:

- [National Biodiversity Network](#) — Information and data on UK species and habitats
- [MAGIC](#) — geographical information on protected and sensitive areas, species, and habitats in the UK

### Tools:

- Exploring natural capital opportunities, risks and exposure [ENCORE](#) — help identify key sector specific impact and dependencies
- [Science Based Targets Network](#) — help in setting targets for your business.

### Networks and forums:

[UK Business & Biodiversity Forum](#) — B2B hub to support businesses share and understand how to integrate nature into their activities.

[Business for Nature](#) — is a global coalition of more than 85 influential partner organisations, as well as forward-thinking companies. .



# Woodsmith Project

Woodsmith is Anglo American's polyhalite fertiliser mine currently under construction in North Yorkshire. As the world's largest known deposit of high-grade polyhalite, the mine will extract the nutrient-rich natural mineral from a vast orebody that stretches out under the North Sea and market it as a premium quality low carbon fertiliser, known as POLY4, that will boost food production and sustainable farming practices.





**Located deep under North York Moors National Park, the innovative mine is designed to have no surface footprint beyond agricultural buildings. Two one-mile-deep mine shafts near Whitby will connect with a 23-mile conveyor in a tunnel to a granulation facility and port on Teesside. This unique infrastructure makes Woodsmith the deepest mine in Europe, with the longest tunnel on mainland Britain, purpose-built to minimise the environmental impact on the surface. Once operational (from 2027), Woodsmith will make the UK the leading producer of a critical, organically certified, sustainable mineral for food production.**

Polyhalite naturally contains four of the six most important nutrients needed for plant growth: potassium, sulphur, magnesium and calcium, plus trace micronutrients. POLY4 offers farmers an easy and more efficient way of enhancing crop yield, crop quality and improving soil structure by using just one product. Compared to other fertilisers,

which typically offer one or two macro-nutrients, POLY4 enables farmers to provide their crops with a more balanced and nutritious diet, which leads to stronger, healthier and more plentiful harvests. POLY4 is uniquely placed to play a significant role in helping farmers improve their productivity and soil health whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprints of fertiliser blends.

As the UK's only major mining project, Woodsmith represents a multi-billion pound inward investment into the North East of England. Approximately £670 million is being invested in the project in 2023 and about £837 million per year moving forward over the next several years. Woodsmith is designed to produce up to 13 million tonnes of fertiliser each year and has the potential to generate substantial export earnings for the UK.

Woodsmith demonstrates the future of modern mining in the UK by using environmentally responsible standards and innovative designs to supply essential minerals and raw materials. The underground mine will practically disappear into the landscape whilst making a positive, tangible impact on the lives of local people through jobs and investment and those of farmers and our customers around the world.



# Greene King's biodiversity

**Greene King is embarking on a journey to significantly reduce its impact on the environment through near-term, science-based targets and its net zero target. Hand in hand with this, is a commitment to enhance biodiversity across its business and value chain.**





**Biodiversity is a new focus for Greene King with ambition to make spaces nature-positive, Greene King has made progress throughout 2022/2023 by completing a number of schemes including the creation of habitats for wildlife and tree planting initiatives.**

To achieve these goals, Greene King believes in keeping the approach simple, ensuring that everyone can participate and engage in the initiatives. Greene King has implemented various activities, events, and solutions to encourage involvement. For example, the introduction of “no mow May,” an initiative that promotes letting grass grow naturally to support biodiversity. Additionally, Greene King has undertaken larger-scale projects such as installing a sedum roof at the Anchor Bankside pub in London and an orchard at Rothley Court Hotel in Loughborough.

Another aspect of our approach involves engaging local communities and providing learning experiences. Greene King has recently installed a bee hotel at Rothley Court, creating an opportunity for local people and schools to interact with bees and learn about their importance in the ecosystem. These initiatives aim to foster a collective responsibility within the communities.

While striving for consistency across Greene King's estate, it is recognised that different properties present unique challenges. For instance, smaller urban locations with limited surrounding land require tailored solutions. However, Greene King is actively working on developing a brand package that can be implemented across all properties and brands while considering these challenges.

Greene King recognises the importance of promoting the changes they are implementing and acknowledge the need for buy-in from multiple stakeholders to make the ESG project a success.

Building strong relationships with internal colleagues is a priority. Greene King actively engages with various teams, including those responsible for property, water, marketing, purchasing, and supply chain management. By collaborating with these internal stakeholders, a cohesive and coordinated approach is ensured.

Greene King also understands the significance of external stakeholders. Working closely with suppliers, seeking partners who share its commitment to sustainability is important, as is actively engaging with the community and industry organisations to foster positive relationships. For example, working closely with the UK Business Biodiversity Forum and Innovation Gateway, demonstrating Greene King's dedication to broader industry-wide sustainability efforts.

Greene King has also embraced the opportunity to collaborate with its supply chain partner, GXO at its Greenford depot to install living walls, hedges and beehives.

## Results/impact

The results are evident, starting with The Anchor Bankside, situated in a bustling urban area with limited greenery along the River Thames. Implementing its biodiversity plan, Greene King introduced various solutions, including a living wall, a sedum roof, and vibrant new planters.



Another successful case study is Rothley Court, nestled amidst nature, making it an ideal location for its biodiversity project. With ample space to enhance wildlife, Greene King installed 55 fruit trees, bird boxes, insect hotels, pollinators, and three beehives.

Fromebridge Mill, with its canal access and expansive grounds, offered another opportunity to promote biodiversity. Collaborating with Gloucestershire Canal and Wildlife Trust, Greene King created a thriving habitat for otters and extended the planting to the entrance drive, planted fruit trees and wildflowers, installed bird boxes and bug hotels, and embraced “no mow May.”

Greene King's customers and team members have acknowledged the positive impact and recognise our commitment to a greener planet.

## Next steps/lesson learnt

Implementing its biodiversity plan comes with its challenges such as, how to sell the story to the business for investment, how to show the benefits of biodiversity proving that it's not just a mandatory course of action for legislative purposes. Also, how to convey this message to its team and customers and lastly how we measure as a quantifiable metric.

Looking ahead, Greene King remains committed to its journey towards making a positive environmental impact, striving for simplicity in its approach and enabling widespread engagement. Through ongoing initiatives, partnerships and engagement with stakeholders, Greene King aims to achieve its objectives while building a sustainable future.





# Creating spaces for nature to thrive

Protecting nature is one of Barratt Developments' priorities within the Building Sustainably Framework. They are committed to creating a legacy of resilient landscapes and communities, where people and nature can thrive. Barratt are achieving this by enhancing habitats that increase biodiversity, and by engaging with residents and the wider community to create environments where local wildlife is encouraged. Barratt are committed to doing this across all of their developments.







**BARRATT**  
DEVELOPMENTS PLC

**The housebuilding industry faces regulatory changes with respect to biodiversity net gain (BNG). Under the Environmental Act legislation, all developments are required to identify and deliver a minimum BNG of 10% by creating new habitats and green spaces. This means that we will create spaces, that are more biodiverse than they were before we started to develop the site.**

## Preparing to lead on BNG

Barratt set a target from January 2023 to identify a minimum BNG of 10% across all new development designs submitted for planning — well ahead of proposed legislation, which mandates this requirement from February 2024. They have also embedded a comprehensive operational framework to deliver this change across their divisions, including colleague training, calculation tools, automated data collection, workshops with external consultants, a review of external consultant capacity and capability, and a network of divisional representatives championing BNG.

With their national rollout programme embedding biodiversity best practice across all regions completed in the year, 100% of development designs submitted for planning from January 2023 identified a minimum net gain of 10%, delivering an average BNG of 36% for area habitats, 76% for hedgerow habitats and 13% for river habitats. Barratt's proactive programme means they remain ahead of legislation, leading the national housebuilders.

An important ingredient in delivering BNG is landscaping. To drive leadership in this area, Barratt launched a new Barratt Landscape Handbook, setting out best practice for the design and delivery of landscaping across their developments. Alongside the launch, Barratt appointed divisional "BNG Champions", ensuring landscaping best practice is both adopted and reported in future, as well as introducing an annual Green Spaces Award for developments that demonstrate best practice landscaping for people and biodiversity.

The Green Spaces Award 2023 winner, Kings Chase, Romsey, has a well implemented landscape strategy that creates some fantastic green spaces across the development. At this site, there has been sympathetic retention of high-value biodiverse features and some outstanding areas of habitat creation delivered, with great attention to detail. The runner-up, King's Wood Gate, Monmouth, demonstrates how innovative design, native species selection and consideration for both homeowners and wildlife can be combined to create a semi-natural habitat, contributing to effective surface water management and providing recreational opportunities with a circular walk and bridge.

Having partners on board with BNG objectives is a key part of achieving success. As BNG relies on the long-term stewardship of developments, Barratt have put in place measures to ensure that landscaping and BNG performance are incorporated in the terms of operation for the management companies who are responsible for our developments post completion.

To assist in wider capacity building, Barratt have delivered workshops with external urban design, ecology and landscape consultants. Alongside their consultants, Barratt have identified solutions to the challenges they have in supporting them with designing BNG into developments.



Top: Overall Winner — Kings Chase, Romsey, Southampton.  
Above: Runner Up for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) — King's Wood Gate, Monmouth, South Wales



As the leading national sustainable housebuilder, it is important for Barratt to share its learnings on sustainable best practice with the rest of the housebuilding sector. Barratt's Group Head of Biodiversity, Helen Nyul, is Chair of the Future Homes Hub's Biodiversity Net Gain working group, helping to support the development sector in meeting the BNG requirements when it becomes mandated. Through this role Barratt have been in regular communication with DEFRA, DLUHC and Natural England regarding when the standards and guidance delivery, and how to best achieve a smooth transition across the industry.

## Going beyond BNG

Barratt recognise that although BNG is an important step in helping to reverse the decline in the UK's biodiversity, we need to do more. To that end, Barratt have been working with their partners the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to maximise the potential of the gardens they create by installing gardens into show homes that are packed with features such as 'hedgehog highways', wildlife-friendly planting and bee and bug houses to inspire customers to recreate these in their own homes. Barratt have also made commitments to enhance our sites for priority species; swifts, hedgehogs and bats in 2021, building on the original commitment for swifts in 2018.

**“We see many benefits to incorporating biodiversity into our development designs. These not only help to minimise our ecological footprint, but meet wider place making and health and well being benefits for our homeowners and the communities where we build. Avoiding impacts to existing habitats creates mature landscape features, giving our developments a sense of place and protects those homes for wildlife.”**

Helen Nyul, Barratt Group Head of Biodiversity

**Take action as soon as possible. While nature may be complex, the actions businesses take don't need to be complicated. Don't wait.**

Through these commitments, Barratt have funded the development of the Manthorpe Swift Brick and have now installed over 5,300 of these in their developments. Barratt plan to update the design to create integral nest boxes and ensure that they fit into timber frame homes.

As hedgehogs are now classified as being vulnerable to extinction, Barratt have marked up over 6,800 hedgehog highways in their development designs across the country since 2021.

Barratt Divisions have also submitted 244 wildlife-friendly garden designs for their show homes, 126 of which have now been built. These gain accreditation from the RSPB and are intended to show homeowners what they can do to attract wildlife to their gardens. Customer brochures, developed with the RSPB, are also provided to Barratt homeowners which give useful advice on how they are helping iconic species, such as swifts and hedgehogs, with new homes in developments using innovative ecological enhancements.

Finally, alongside RSPB partners, Barratt are establishing the process to enable the creation of Species Enhancement Plans. These are targeted landscape improvements, which will support nesting and feeding of priority species — helping Barratt go beyond BNG by protecting species as well as creating new habitats.

With British wildlife in decline, it is essential that we are considering nature and the environment with every home built. Barratt are committed to building wildlife into all of their new housing developments, making sure that people and wildlife can live happily alongside each other at the developments for years to come.





**“To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to work together to find innovative ways to transform our current patterns of consumption and production for people and planet.”**

John W.H. Denton AO, ICC Secretary General

# Circular economy

**Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our century, resulting from our traditional consumption, production, and disposal patterns. According to the OECD, resource extraction is currently rising by approximately 2% every year, with around 82 billion tonnes of raw materials extracted in 2020.**

Replacing fossil fuels, which account for 55% of global GHG emissions, with renewable energy at speed could only mitigate part of the problem. We need a paradigm shift with a global approach on value creation — to transform how industries manufacture, use and dispose of materials, as well as how we manage land that is transitioning into a circular model. We need to build an economy which utilises regenerative secondary resource to preserve and enhance natural capital in an efficient way — optimising and maximising the life circle of products, and eliminating negative externalities from design.

Circular approaches reduce dependence on natural resources and present economic opportunities. It is a systems solution framework to mitigate climate change, biodiversity degradation and pollution. Driven by design, circular

initiatives build resilience by its regenerative nature, waste and pollution elimination model, and value optimisation system. The circular model accelerates business growth, enhances competitiveness, and mitigates risks by enhancing efficiency gain, reducing operational costs, captivating customers, disguising from competition, acclimating value chain relationship, and mitigating linear risk exposure.

To make the circular transition possible, businesses need to embed circularity in their climate strategies, redesigning products and services utilising digital technology, as well as work collaboratively throughout the supply chain internally and externally; investors need to mobilise capitals towards circularity solutions; governments need to set enabling policies and put the necessary infrastructure in place.







# Sustainability reporting frameworks

Accountability and transparency are critical to sustainability efforts. Sustainability reporting is the procedure of transparently communicating a business' ESG performance and impacts. Reporting provides a view of an organisation's efforts to address sustainability challenges and promote responsible business conduct through disclosing information about sustainability initiatives, goals, policies and performance.

The Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is a global initiative that enhances the understanding and management of nature-related opportunities and risks. TNFD offers a standardised framework that allows businesses to assess, manage and disclose the impacts of their activities on biodiversity and nature. TNFD helps businesses integrate nature considerations into decision making processes. The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) promotes effective reporting of climate-

related financial information. The framework aids businesses in assessing and disclosing the opportunities and risks linked to climate change. TNFD and TCFD reporting helps businesses identify and manage climate and environmental risks, enhances transparency, allows for regulatory compliance, attracts investors and fosters long term resilience. Sustainability reporting plays a key role in promoting responsible business practices, by enabling businesses to integrate sustainability, climate and nature into their operations.



# Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

Nature-related disclosures — what it means  
for businesses large and small.



**With the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), and its four goals and 23 targets to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity to put nature on a path to recovery by 2050, the focus now turns to implementation, including the critical role businesses will play if these goals are to deliver.**

The KMGBF specifically requires governments to encourage and enable businesses to regularly monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies, and impacts on nature — TNFD is one framework developed to drive businesses to take action to address their impacts on biodiversity, to disclose the business risks due to dependencies on nature (enabling single and double materiality), set science-based targets and demonstrate how company actions contribute towards the KMGBF goals and targets.

## TNFD

The mission of the TNFD<sup>1</sup> is “To develop and deliver a risk management and disclosure framework for organisations to report and act on evolving nature related risks, which aims to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes”.

In September 2023, the TNFD released its first version of the disclosure framework, a draft framework against which corporates and financial institutions can disclose their risks, opportunities, impacts, and dependences on nature — with the opportunity for businesses to voluntary disclosures against the TNFD.

## The TNFD Framework and Disclosure recommendations

The TNFD framework follows the same structure as the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), with disclosure recommendations covering:

- Governance
- Strategy
- Risk & Impact Management
- Metrics and targets

TNFD has a much wider in scope than TCFD and in brief will require companies to:

- Assess their impacts and dependencies on nature, with a focus on assets or commodities sourced from “priority locations”
- Assess the nature-related business risks and opportunities, based on the companies use and dependencies on nature
- Apply and disclosure a number of core and additional metrics which are used to indicate the impacts and dependencies the company is having on nature
- Set science-based targets to reduce the impacts and business risks, and regularly disclose progress against those targets
- Undertake and disclose these assessments across different levels of a company's value chain (where a company interfaces with nature), from the corporate level to sites/operations at priority locations, to materials and commodities used or sourced through its supply chain

1 TNFD — Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures





## For smaller businesses....

The TNFD, and other disclosure frameworks and standards, will be driving increased transparency and data demands throughout the global supply chain. While the focus will be on the larger corporates to be disclosing, there will be additional demands on SMEs, specifically customers requesting data and information on where commodities are being sourced from. Such as are any materials or commodities we are purchasing being sourced from “priority locations”? and what is the ecological impacts of sourcing those material at that location?

## Beyond TNFD

The TNFD is a disclosure framework and not a reporting standard (such as the Global Reporting Initiative<sup>2</sup> or the CDP<sup>3</sup>). However, the TNFD framework is being used and underpins many of these standards and mandatory reporting requirements, notably the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards which directly refers to and recommends using the TNFD recommendations.

The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) is also likely to incorporate the TNFD into its requirements in due course.

## In brief

The TNFD framework represents an opportunity to assess, map and better understand and be transparent about the action's businesses are undertaking, or planning to undertake, in addressing the global decline in nature.

Key challenges will be around assessing the impact and dependences, determining the financial risks, and obtaining accurate and reliable data to inform both company actions and progress towards the nature-related targets. Many of these challenges can be overcome with time, testing, learning, and sharing (both the data and lessons learnt)<sup>4</sup>.

To fully understand the implications, the TNFD framework should ideally be tested at different levels of a company (from corporate to site or for individual products in the value chain) and in different parts of a company's value chain.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.globalreporting.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdp.net/en>

<sup>4</sup> The UKBBF is a business hub to help and support businesses understand biodiversity and integrate biodiversity into its decision making. The UKBBF has an established TNFD working group for businesses only, for more details: <https://www.business-biodiversity.co.uk/>.



# TNFD recommendations and guidance





**TNFD is a global, market-led, science-based and government-supported initiative to help companies and financial institutions factor nature into decisions. The Taskforce consists of 40 senior executives from companies and financial institutions globally representing over \$20 trillion in assets under management with operations and value chains in over 180 countries.**

The TNFD recommendations provide companies and financial institutions of all sizes with a **risk management and disclosure framework to identify, assess, manage and, where appropriate, disclose nature-related issues**. It includes 14 recommended disclosures covering nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities.

The recommendations have been designed to:

- Be **consistent with the language, structure and approach** of both the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB);
- Accommodate the **different approaches to materiality** now being applied in jurisdictions around the world, through two materiality lenses;
- Be **aligned with the global policy goals** and targets in the GBF, including Target 15 on corporate reporting of nature-related risks, dependencies and impacts; and
- Leverage the **best available science**, including assessments of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the climate science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



The TNFD recommendations are structured to allow **companies and financial institutions to get started**, building on their climate reporting capabilities over the past decade, and to provide a path to increase their disclosure ambition over time.

To support adoption and the provision of consistent, comparable and decision-useful information for report users, the Taskforce has developed **foundations for understanding nature and business**, by working closely with the world's leading scientific and conservation organisations, and a set of **recommended indicators and metrics** for assessment and to support disclosure and a suite of **additional guidance** to accompany it disclosure recommendations. The additional guidance includes:

- How to get started with TNFD, with practical steps, considerations and insights from pilot testing which can be useful also for organisations operating in jurisdictions where standards and regulation on nature are emerging
- The identification and assessment of nature-related issues (the LEAP approach), building on, and integrating the use of, existing market-leading frameworks, tools and datasets. This is designed to be used by a team of analysts in an organisation and involves four phases of assessment

- Specific sector guidance providing further details to help organisations to interpret and apply the TNFD recommended disclosures and LEAP approach, and guidance on applying the LEAP approach in specific types of ecosystem (biomes)
- Guidance on Scenario analysis, building on TCFD's scenario resources;
- Engagement of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and affected stakeholders, providing guidance on the relevant TNFD disclosure recommendation.

The recommendations and accompanying additional guidance are built on extensive **market feedback** and **pilot testing**. They are consistent with the recommendations of the TCFD, the ISSB and GRI Standards and the global policy goals and targets in the GBF.

# TNFD screening and prioritisation exercise

Little Blue Research supported Informa by piloting the initial stages of the TNFD Draft Framework for several business lines and their own operations.





LITTLE BLUE RESEARCH LTD

**Informa PLC is a leading international events, digital services and academic knowledge group. We're here to champion the specialist. Through hundreds of brands and a range of products and services, we connect businesses and professionals with the knowledge they need to learn more, know more and do more. Informa is listed on London Stock Exchange and a member of FTSE 100, with 11,000 colleagues working in more than 30 countries.**

## Little Blue Research

Little Blue Research is an independent sustainability consultancy focusing on the provision of support across environmental economics, social impact analysis and nature related risks. The company has significant experience supporting businesses to understand, measure and value their impacts and dependencies on nature.

Informa requested technical support to undertake a screening and prioritisation exercise as part of a pilot test of the beta version of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. The pilot focused on the first six steps of the Locate, Evaluate, Assess and Prepare (LEAP) approach and included review of the client's approach to the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) to identify synergies.

## Challenges

- Putting the TNFD Draft Framework's LEAP approach into practice for different aspects of Informa's value chain, particularly understanding the steps required and accessing relevant and experienced subject matter knowledge within and outside of the business
- Developing biodiversity, water and waste indices from public datasets and research across 15 countries
- Identifying priority locations within Informa's business lines including key operational locations and divisions
- Implementing the LEAP approach and mitigating for countries with low supply chain visibility
- Identifying material nature based risks to Informa's business lines based on outputs from impact and dependency screening, internal interviews and data reviews
- Developing high level risk ratings for identified risks to business lines accounting for Informa's current targets and commitments, nature-based risks and data gaps

## Results

- High level risk and opportunity assessment based on outputs of piloting the initial stages of the LEAP approach, including impact ratings
- Providing a series of biodiversity, water and waste indices for use in the assessment of different aspects of Informa's value chain
- Next steps and likely actions needed to complete a full TNFD assessment in future
- Results from an impact and dependency screening exercise with particular reference to current biodiversity, water and waste risks

## Next steps

Informa used the findings of the pilot to inform their sustainability programmes and ensure efforts are focused on areas of highest opportunity and risk for the business. For example, managing risk from forest products through their policy on sustainable paper and timber, and their Better Stands programme which helps create more opportunities from the construction of sustainable exhibition booths.

**The Little Blue Research project team is working with several companies piloting the LEAP approach.**

The common challenges seen across these include:

- Time availability within the business to implement the framework
- A lack of relevant supply chain data across different economic sectors especially in relation to location
- The data ask from the process can be overwhelming and there is a need to prioritise. Prioritisation can be based on a mix of spend data, critical supplies and potential/perceived impacts and dependencies on nature
- Determining what makes a 'good screening' in relation to nature based risks and identifying when more complete data is required, understanding that these two points will vary based on the type of business undertaking an assessment
- A combination of public and/or paid for data may potentially add overheads for business, making sure the company understands the type of data required and what it will be used for is important
- Understanding the relevant links between initiatives such as CSRD, ISSB, SBTN & CDP, ensuring that actions to address nature make the most of these links

## Top three things to consider

**Little Blue Research has also further explored what the TNFD Framework means for businesses and provided guidance on how to get started.**

- 1** Determine what your business is already doing with regard to nature. Identify relevant internal stakeholders and explore what is already included in your sustainability approach and links across relevant frameworks.
- 2** Consider where to start by ensuring you understand your full business value chain, looking at your material issues
- 3** Prioritise areas of greatest potential for nature related risk by considering: the strategic importance of different parts of the company, screening for nature related risks using different tools such as ENCORE or the newly launched materiality screening tool from the SBTN, the data you have access to.

Click [here](#) for more information on Little Blue Research's article on how to get started with the TNFD. For more information about Informa's approach to nature please see [here](#).




**ICC United Kingdom is the representative voice for ICC in the UK and provides a mechanism for UK industry to engage effectively in shaping international policy, standards and rules.**

We are the leading voice on digital trade ecosystems, act as the ICC representative to the Commonwealth and Co-Chair the Legal Reform Advisory Board at the ICC Digital Standards Initiative.

 [iccwbo.uk](https://www.iccwbo.uk)

 [@iccwboUK](https://twitter.com/iccwboUK)

 [/ICC United Kingdom](https://www.linkedin.com/company/icc-united-kingdom)

 [advocacy@iccwbo.uk](mailto:advocacy@iccwbo.uk)



**UK Business  
& Biodiversity  
Forum**

**The UKBBF is a business-to-business hub supporting companies to both understand the value of biodiversity and integrate nature into their value chain and decision making.**

Our vision is that UK businesses include biodiversity into decision making; and that nature is valued, conserved, restored and managed sustainably.

 [business-biodiversity.co.uk](https://business-biodiversity.co.uk)

 [/uk-business-biodiversity-forum](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uk-business-biodiversity-forum)

 [info@business-biodiversity.co.uk](mailto:info@business-biodiversity.co.uk)

#### **ICC United Kingdom**

Registered office: First Floor,  
1-3 Staple Inn, London WC1V 7QH  
Company number: 10763507  
VAT number: 42209200

#### **UK Business & Biodiversity Forum**

A Community Interest Company (CIC)  
limited by guarantee, registered in England  
and Wales. Company number 14359764.