

CORPORATE BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS



UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Conservation International and Fauna & Flora International are currently working with a range of partners across the private sector and conservation community to advance current thinking on corporate biodiversity indicators.

Understanding performance is key to companies effectively managing biodiversity impacts

Businesses rely on biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it supports, in a multitude of ways, but can also significantly impact biodiversity through their operations. Businesses want and are increasingly being called upon to demonstrate how they're positively contributing to the challenge of continued biodiversity loss from development and feeding into societal efforts to address it (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals).

While there has been increasing alignment around using approaches such as the mitigation hierarchy to achieve no net loss or net gain performance objectives for biodiversity, there has been no uniform way for the private sector to measure progress on these goals.

Box 1: What is a biodiversity indicator?

“a quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure performance” [1]

Impact Indicators:

Help businesses to answer the question, ‘how are our activities affecting biodiversity?’

Performance Indicators:

Help businesses to answer the question, ‘did we do what we said we would, when we said we would?’



To do this, businesses require a range of indicators that can provide information on their performance in a timely and clear manner. These indicators help companies manage performance and share results with stakeholders including financiers (Box 1). They are therefore an integral component of continuous improvement.

After many years of limited progress, the past few years have seen a rapid diversification of biodiversity indicator methodologies for different sectors and to serve different information needs.

The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre is involved in a number of projects related to corporate indicators. The Biodiversity Indicators for Extractive project aims to **develop and test a methodology for generating scientifically credible indicators** for use at site and corporate level within the extractives sector. The Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business aims to **establish common ground between a range of indicator projects** across multiple sectors to provide clarity for the private sector and bring this understanding to the policy arena.

Indicators for the extractives sector

The potential impacts on biodiversity from the extractives sector are significant and the importance of effective biodiversity performance is recognised with leaders in the sector. Despite this, there has been little progress made in our ability to measure corporate biodiversity performance. To help unlock this challenge, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, is working to develop corporate biodiversity indicators that meet the needs of the extractive sector and its key stakeholders.

As part of the **Biodiversity Indicators for Extractives** project UNEP-WCMC identified a need for a simple and standardised approach to monitor the effectiveness of biodiversity risk management actions at both corporate and site levels. Based on these needs, a **methodology for identifying suitable indicators** was developed which allows companies to track the state of biodiversity, the pressures they place upon it, and their response to these pressures (see Fig 1). This project is a joint initiative with Conservation International and Fauna & Flora International, supported by IPIECA and the Proteus Partnership.

The **methodology is now being piloted** throughout 2019 by a number of extractive companies with project partners and additional supporting organisations. The aim is to produce a finalised methodology for distribution to the wider extractives sector.

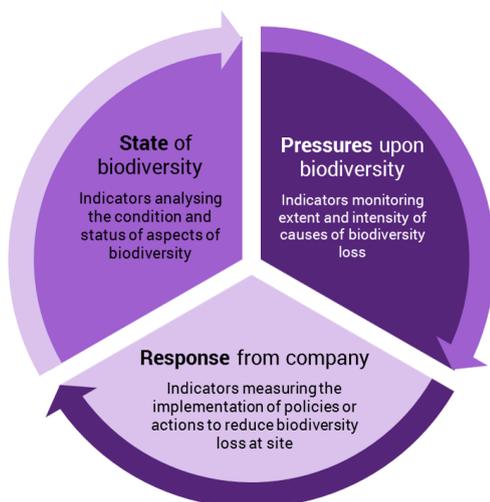


Figure 1: State-Pressure-Response Framework



In collaboration with:  IPIECA

Establishing common ground

Biodiversity indicators targeted at different sectors and business needs are being developed by a range of organisations. This has led to approaches being developed in parallel and confusion within the private sector regarding which methods are most appropriate to adopt.

The **Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business** project aims to tackle the issues surrounding indicators **by convening indicator developers and key stakeholders** through a series of workshops in order **to form a common view among key stakeholders on the measurement, monitoring and disclosure of corporate impact and then communicate this into global policy discussions and global policy frameworks.**

As part of this project, **two workshops** were planned, the first of which was held in Brussels in March 2019 and the second will be held in Brazil in October 2019. The first workshop will seek to explore existing methodologies and **identify common ground between biodiversity accounting approaches** for business. This will then be followed by a workshop aimed at **refining this understanding of common ground and exploring the potential for a suite of indicators that can meet the needs of the private sector and policy makers.**

The project will provide a mechanism for knowledge transfer between indicator initiatives with their associated corporate networks and also the policy sphere which includes work on science-based targets. A key output will be a set of recommendations for the private sector and policy makers on methodologies to measure corporate biodiversity performance.

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