

We Value Nature Virtual Office Hour call

30 April 2020



1. Welcome - Who are you?

- Katia Bonga, Associate, Redefining Value Program - WBCSD & Lead for all We Value Nature training / capacity building efforts. Really keen to hear from you guys on the call about your experience in addressing COVID-19 and what are some of the challenges you are facing in keeping momentum around nature, as well as tips you can share with others
- Nadine McCormick, Program Officer, Global Business & Biodiversity Program - IUCN & Lead for uptake pathway and barriers work for We Value Nature
- Stephanie Hime, Little Blue Research, Ltd., Director - Curious to hear about keeping up momentum
- Lisa, Graduate Landscape Architect, Hanson. Generally interested in opportunities and progress
- Ana Rengifo, Freelance working in Habitat banks
- Bianca Nijhof, am Managing Director of the Netherlands Water Partnership: we represent Dutch water sector and support them providing solutions to our global water challenges
- Klaas Eleveld, looking for the best 'way in' into sustainable landscape restoration
- This is Aanchal Saxena from IUCN India, I represent the Leaders for Nature India program. Keen to listen to all of your good work
- Elsa FAVROT Environment project management in charge of biodiversity
- Florian Bodescu from Romania, MULTIDIMENSION SRL, interest on sustainable development goals

- Iris Visser, working as an analyst at Nature[^]Squared, doing projects on the nexus of biodiversity and economics
- Elena Rainey, Environmental Policy Advisor at BP, real examples of measures taken by the companies to move forward their nature agenda
- Euan Long, Sustainability & Climate Change Consultant at PwC UK. Curious to hear about nature opportunities from the COVID situation
- Etienne Aulotte - Regional Nature plan Coordinator - Brussels Region - success stories on how to implement nature capital in business
- Catherine Weller, Business and nature team at CISL (Cambridge Uni). Curious to know whether 'resilience' is consistently understood, or just a new buzzword that means different things to different people
- Judith Nicholson, Relationship Manager, Woodland Trust. First time in-, keen to listen and learn
- Florence Clap from IUCN French Committee managing our « business and Biodiversity » group
- Alberto Valenzano. I am a programme officer at the European Commission (DG GROW), working on the uptake of CSR in European companies. Interested to hear more about how to promote biodiversity and nature conservation
- Cillian McMahon, CR Adviser, BITC Ireland. Looking forward to getting an international perspective on what business is doing in terms of biodiversity during the crisis
- Rory Canavan in Leeds, UK - Associate with Arup - keen to understand direction of travel post Covid and postponement of COPs.
- Andy Duncan, Landscape and Restoration Manager at Hanson Quarry Products, UK. Worried that the Company will be so concerned with business recovery that it may consider Nat Cap as just a "nice-to-do" and low priority
- elina Gersberg - IUCN French Committee - Business and Biodiversity Program. Interested in how to jump on the current situation for new biodiversity opportunities
- Angela Small - Doctoral Researcher at University of Leeds - Business use of Natural Capital. I'm interested in the impact of COVID 19 on the value of nature to business
- Lucia Santolaria, Environmental technician from CEPSA, i would like to know a bit more about how to improve biodiversity management in these days
- Jane Chukwudebelu, Environmental Research Scientist/climate Change Desk Officer, Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi, Lagos-Nigeria
- Élise from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national CBD Co focal point
- Thilina Gunawardana- Hayleys Advantis Limited (Sri Lanka). Concerned regarding the role of the transportation industry on climate emergency
- Roger Horne, after a variety of roles I now assist a few companies with their quality and environmental management systems. As time goes by, I'm more and more convinced that any organisation's actions reflect its core values - if we care about nature, we'll look after it. And long term that will mean economic as well as environmental sustainability
- Sam Thomas, Environment Agency (England), Integrated Environment Planning Specialist. Looking for examples of people harnessing natural capital to be more targeted with huge programmes of work

- Isabel Ripa, independent consultant based working on sustainability/environment projects including nature/biodiversity. Convinced that the whole society needs to be involved to respond to the global challenges we face, I'm interested in getting to know more about how business see themselves

2. Setting the scene

We'll type a summary of the presentation and group discussions here as well as questions and answers. Feel free to add points that we may miss!

Summary

- We were not prepared for this crisis and essential jobs have not sufficiently been rewarded or protected.
- But once crisis identified we focused on it to combat it
- Many organisations repurposed their resources towards a greater common purpose
- Nature has been sending warning signals, we've not been using nature as an ally. How do we rebuild, and re enter into a new normal where nature is part of the solution, build back better, and the basis of a resilient future.

We Value Nature Coronavirus Update: <https://wevaluenature.eu/article/we-value-nature-responding-coronavirus>

Business collaboration is key to building a healthier future, an article by Gerard Bos: <https://wevaluenature.eu/article/business-collaboration-key-building-healthier-future>

Article from IUCN European Regional Office : <https://www.iucn.org/news/europe/202004/a-green-recovery-europe-will-also-need-scale-nature-based-solutions>

Impacts of biodiversity on the emergence and transmission of infectious diseases <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature09575>

3. Maintaining business momentum & leadership around nature - presentation from Eva Zabey, Executive Director of Business for Nature

We'll type a summary of the presentation and group discussions here as well as questions and answers. Feel free to add points that we may miss!

Summary

- Is 2020 still a super year? A lot of people are now suffering
- Messaging needed to be updated for current context. Coronavirus may impact position, success, strategy, call to action - but these were internal, and are not published on the website as Business for nature did not want to add to the noise. Messages:
 - The crisis highlights how interconnected everything is
 - We need to strengthen resilience
 - We need leaders to call for stimulus packages that spur bold and ambitious policy to reverse nature loss by 2030.
- Building resilience event, 15 June. Originally an in-person CEO meeting, but by going online can rebuild confidence and momentum.
- Reflections:
 - We're all in this together but at different phases - other countries or individuals may not be ready to push their ceo/ take action
 - We must not compete for attention and noise. The nature community must be respectful, amplify each others messages
 - Deliverables and timing will need to be flexible. Some things will need to slow down/ stop. Other activities could be amplified.

1. What questions do you have for Eva?

Question(s) / comment(s)	Answer
Have you seen any compelling published papers/ evidence of interconnections between the current global health crisis and the environmental and climate emergency?	IPBES: https://ipbes.net/covid19stimulus https://www.iucn.org/news/europe/202004/a-green-recovery-europe-will-also-need-scale-nature-based-solutions
What impact has social distancing / isolation had on the global perception of the value of nature? What are the opportunities for business from this?	Global crisis but much of the response is on a local level. Many discovering the importance of nature close to us But need to be clear, even if emissions are down and nature is returning this is a crisis not the answer.

4. Group discussion in breakout rooms

Separate live Google document for this part:

[Breakout rooms - Questions to discuss](#)

Summary of key highlights from each group discussion:

- Forces people to think differently and being more creative and boost of INNOVATION, not only RESILIENCE
- Types of clients changing - some organisations have more money now, others such as service based industries no longer have funding.
- switching to digital meetings has opened up possibilities for (more) colleagues joining in without cost-increases otherwise related to travelling.
- How to convince CEOs to push forward the nature agenda in the current economic crisis
- EU is trying to reconcile the nature agenda and the economic recovery after the crisis by promoting green deal and sustainable transition in Member States and among industry leaders
- Connecting the networks is the main effort needed
- Get finance and water professionals to better understand what's in it for them
- For the finance colleagues what's in it for them (P&L) - Why bother when there is no financial return?
- Real need to have a holistic systems approach.
- Different companies are living the experience very differently - depends where their operations are and how hard their income has been hit.
- Public administration, we can perfectly maintain meetings. For the companies, SMEs - it's a real problem, e.g. building sector is 95% SMEs, a lot of problems. They're not open to discuss sustainability.
- Cillain - we've adapted our services rapidly recently, switched more to community. Checking on the relationships, seeing how they are
- Use the international day for biodiversity 22 May as an opportunity.
- Key challenge is survival as a business and implementing journey announced globally. Big announcements now mean facing pressure to deliver in current challenging economic landscape.
- More motivated than ever before to energise the inclusion of the nature agenda in restarting

5. Wrap-up

What is your main takeaway from this call?

Copy-paste answers from the chat here.

- Changing nature of committing to long term projects

- Convincing organisations to that economic gain is not in isolation to environmental investment.
- Forces people to think differently and being more creative and boost of INNOVATION, not only RESILIENCE
- general receptiveness to the language of resilience
- Working everybody in same sense
- Companies trying to be more sustainable.
- More receptiveness regarding the context
- Take the crisis as an opportunity to communicate on the links health/biodiversity
- Some working on very concrete measures that can be taken, e.g. prioritize more bike lanes in Manchester to #buildbackbetter
- Attitudes by large corporations in various countries can be challenging to compete with.
- May make senior managers realize that "business as usual" is vulnerable to outside influences of all sorts, not just market forces
- French initiative : <http://www.act4nature.com/en/how-to-join-act4nature/>
- Key message to me is the need to integrate business strategy and actions with business values - but sadly some businesses only have the financial value in mind!
- More momentum still there
- solutions are in nature
- Delightful to engage with people with similar interests and helping to refocus and seek out further information
- Positive drive that nature still on agenda
- Stay mobilized and 15th June!
- We need to have a common understanding on standards for assessment sustainability
- interesting point around sensitivity regarding nature-Covid narrative
- The crisis has opened up access to technology and free training materials – need to use these opportunities

Thank you for your participation! :)
 - Link to the [feedback Survey](#)
 - Reminder the next call will be on **26 May,**
11:00-12:00 CET

