

## We Value Nature 10-Day Challenge Event

### *Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance, 15 March 2021*

#### Session summary & key takeaways

IUCN presented the IUCN *Guidelines for planning and monitoring corporate biodiversity performance*, which contain an approach and tools for companies to plan and monitor their biodiversity performance. Speakers stressed the importance for companies to understand biodiversity in their landscape to set effective biodiversity goals. They explained the link between this report and other guidelines and tools, and highlighted that the IUCN document considers all of these other initiatives and show where each of them might be relevant to a given stage. Attendees asked questions around avoiding hyper-prioritisation of some value chains, and the overlap with companies' own performance standards, among others. Answers stressed the need to take a landscape approach when analysing impacts and dependencies, and ensuring awareness is raised also with policy and financial actors. The companies (Nespresso, Boskalis, and Alcoa) that piloted the guidelines explained that they did so to improve corporate-level environmental impact measuring and reporting using the right data considering complex supply chains, identify services that positively contribute to biodiversity, and design a corporate vision to manage biodiversity. Using the guidelines, they were able to identify pressures on biodiversity, identify priority species and habitats affected by them, review the effectiveness of existing responses, stream this data across all value chains, and progress in ways that contribute to biodiversity.

The session was attended by 308 people (with 656 registered individuals) from Europe (198), North America (46) Asia (33), Africa (15), South America (14), the Middle East (1) and Oceania (1).

#### *Key takeaways:*

1. By following the guidelines, a company will be able to identify all the elements needed to come up with a solid corporate biodiversity strategic plan, such as pressures and dependencies on biodiversity, as well as measurable goals to demonstrate contribution to biodiversity goals. If a company already follows performance standards and a certification scheme, the guidelines can complement these tools, by monitoring their effectiveness on the ground.
2. The guidelines apply to all sectors, so every actor that has an influence on value chains should verify whether their actions consider biodiversity. This includes the financial sector, who is increasingly looking to align their financial portfolio with biodiversity goals. The guidelines provide tools and recommendations for financial institutions to understand their impacts and dependencies on nature but also of their portfolio.

3. Stakeholder engagement is key for a company to create and implement a biodiversity strategic plan and manage and monitor biodiversity performance. This entails talking with other companies and communities in the landscape sharing the same resources, as well as organisations and scientists who are also knowledgeable of the area. Wherever possible, as the guidelines mention, looking at the broader landscape will allow to come up with a shared strategy, and provide a more accurate picture of biodiversity performance and inform planning. Overtime, the goal is for companies to adopt these recommendations, communicate and influence each other to harmonize biodiversity management within and between sectors.

Warm thanks to the speakers for the insights shared:

- **Giulia Carbone**, Deputy Director of the Business and Biodiversity Programme at IUCN
- **P.J. Stephenson**, Chair of the IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group, independent consultant and research fellow at the University of Lausanne
- **Katie Leach**, Senior Programme Officer in the Business and Biodiversity Programme at UNEP-WCMC
- **Julie Reneau**, Sustainability Strategy Manager at Nespresso
- **Claire Bryant**, Group Sustainability Manager at Boskalis
- **Fokko van der Goot**, Senior Environmental Engineer at Boskalis and Programme Manager at EcoShape
- **Rosa García Pineiro**, Vice-president of Sustainability at Alcoa and President of the Alcoa Foundation

### Key solutions presented / actions to take

- Some companies are already aware of their operations relate to biodiversity, while many others are only beginning in their journeys. Instead of analysing all their operations and supply chains to understand where the impacts and dependencies are, they could choose one that seems the most important to them at first, do a situation analysis and go through the process described in the guidelines. The indicators suggested in the guidelines allow for flexibility based on each company's individual assessment.

Wherever a company is in its journey engaging all stakeholders in the landscape is paramount to gather necessary information.

- IUCN will also release the guidelines in Chinese by the end of March, with possibly an event in May 2021.
- IUCN will work with the pilot companies to implement the four stages of the guidelines to produce corporate biodiversity strategic plans tailored to the company. Lessons learned will be used to improve the guidelines, so more information will be provided.
- Finally, IUCN fully supports the development and use of science-based targets for nature. Recognizing that the IUCN *Guidelines for planning and monitoring corporate biodiversity performance* can be used as pre-cursor for the use of science-based targets for nature (biodiversity, land, water and ocean), we are in the process to discuss with the SBT Network how we can ensure that the companies that will work with IUCN in 2021-2022 will be ready to use the science-based targets methodologies when these are released in 2022.

### Useful resources

- Download the IUCN guidelines for Planning and Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance here: <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2021.05.en>
- Read the press release on the guidelines here: <https://www.iucn.org/news/business-and-biodiversity/202103/iucn-unveils-new-guidelines-businesses-committed-improving-their-biodiversity-performance>