



European Business and Nature Summit

Building action for nature and people

7 & 8 November 2019, Madrid

The European Business and Nature Summit is a regional stepping stone in the global run to strengthen the role of businesses in supporting nature conservation and its sustainable use. The specific objectives of the Summit are to provide:

- A forum to explore the most **recent progresses made by businesses and financial institutions** to better account for their impacts and dependencies on nature and take informed decisions to generate net positive impact.
- A place to collect and celebrate **commitments for nature** by the business community feeding into the [*Action Agenda for Nature and People*](#).
- An opportunity for businesses to call for strong **political ambitions** to protect biodiversity and to provide valuable input to **the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**.
- A chance to engage a wide international audience in addressing **biodiversity loss** and **move towards a critical mass of businesses** integrating biodiversity and natural capital into their decision making.

The summit supports the [*Action Agenda for Nature and People*](#) seeking to mobilize action in the lead up to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity taking place in 2020. It represents a key milestone in the engagement of businesses in this process and their commitments to nature conservation.

The two-day Summit will take place on **7 and 8 November 2019**. It will be hosted by CaixaForum in the very centre of **Madrid**, Spain, and will bring together key representatives from businesses, financial institutions, governments and civil society.

Organising partners

Organising entities



Collaborating entities



Funding entities



Draft agenda – 7 November 2019

Day 1 – Building action for nature and people: The role of businesses and financial institutions

Moderator: Eva Zabey, Director, Redefining Value – WBCSD

Objective of the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Day 1 will mainly focus on the changes that are required at company level to engage with nature, and biodiversity in particular, and on the ambition and action commitments for nature by the European business community ■ The start of Day 1 will set the scene for the two days of the conference and stress the strong momentum being built towards the CBD COP 15 that should result in an ambitious post-2020 policy framework for biodiversity and natural capital. ■ The day will be organised around three sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1: Building action for nature and people: businesses can lead the way! This session will stress the role of the business community to lead by example on protecting nature, the need to strengthen cooperation with other stakeholders of society and push for the establishment of an ambitious post-2020 policy framework at the CBD COP 15 in 2020. – 2: Business and financial institutions commitments to the Action Agenda for Nature and People. This session will provide inspiring business cases that will exemplify the importance of nature for business as well as the policy-asks from the business community – 3: Dealing with nature at business level: group discussions. Six group sessions focusing on various inspirational, educational or technical topics.
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Session 1 – Building action for nature and people: businesses can lead the way!

9.30 – 10.00 PL1 INSPIRATIONAL	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Welcoming remark from the host country (Spain), the Finnish EU presidency and the European Commission.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Welcoming speech.</p>
10.00 – 11.00 PL2 INSPIRATIONAL	<p>1st high-level panel – Building action for nature and people</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Provide compelling stories by CEO-level business representatives of why nature is crucial for businesses, what concrete commitments for nature businesses are making, and how they can help creating more momentum and scale up contributions from the European business community. The session will also highlight the need for all stakeholders to cooperate and push for the establishment of an ambitious post-2020 policy framework at the CBD COP 15 in 2020.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Panel debate. Each speaker will be asked to cover different aspects of the agenda.</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee & networking

Session 2 – Business commitments to the Action Agenda for Nature and People

11.30 – 12.45 PL3 INSPIRATIONAL	<p>Kick-starting a European business commitment for nature</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The session will provide inspiring examples of businesses and financial institutions who have implemented meaningful and impactful solutions to integrate biodiversity within their decisions and operations. The session will illustrate the business case for the integration of biodiversity into management decisions, explore how to scale-up individual action to industry/sector level and stimulate further collection of ambitious “intended contributions to Nature” from participating businesses and non-businesses throughout the two days.</p>
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Day 1 – Building action for nature and people: The role of businesses and financial institutions

Format: Presentations followed by Q&A

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch & networking

Session 3 – Dealing with Nature at business level: group discussions

14.00 – 15.15 Business for Nature Coalition: progress on building commitments

GS1 EDUCATIONAL
Objective: Following the inspiring business cases presented in the morning plenary this session will focus on discussing “what” types of commitments can businesses take, and “how” they can progress on delivering these. It will also explore how to start a movement of engaged businesses that contribute to the Nature Action Agenda at global level.
Format: Short introductions to frame the topic for later roundtable discussions.

14.00 – 15.15 Science-based targets for Nature: how to apply them at the level of businesses?

GS2 EDUCATIONAL
Objective: In order to halt biodiversity loss and move towards biodiversity gains by 2030, businesses need to adopt science-based targets providing a clearly defined pathway to future-proof progress by specifying how much and how quickly they need to reduce their impact on nature. This session will provide an overview of different science-based targets and practical examples of how they are applied within businesses and financial institutions. It will also highlight the benefits of using such targets at business level.
Format: to be decided.

14.00 – 15.15 Towards a Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures?

GS3 TECHNICAL
Objective: This session will explore the need to develop consistent financial risk disclosures associated with nature that can be used by companies to inform investors, lenders, insurers, and other stakeholders. It will build on the results of the CoP F@B workshop on biodiversity reporting and disclosure that will be organised in September and will inform the revision of the GRI biodiversity indicators. These discussions will be linked with wider initiatives to develop generally accepted principles for environmental accounting.
Format: to be decided.

15.15 -15.45 Coffee & networking

15.45 – 17.00 Accounting for Nature, towards common ground

GS4 TECHNICAL
Objective: This session will provide an update on the work of the EU B@B Platform, UNEP-WCMC and others on aligning biodiversity and natural capital accounting approaches.
Format: to be decided.

15.45 – 17.00 Generating a positive return by achieving net positive impact

GS5 TECHNICAL
Objective: This session will investigate recent initiatives by financial institutions and businesses to achieve net positive impact on nature. It will highlight the key role of nature restoration and green infrastructure to achieve this objective from a business perspective and the various forms of returns (financial, societal, etc.) it provides to companies.
Format: to be decided.

15.45 – 17.00 Boosting sustainability innovation through biodiversity

GS6 INSPIRATIONAL
Objective: This session will feature various businesses who have made a commitment to the latest cutting-edge innovations to help them make better decisions for long-term impact. They will share their vision that taking biodiversity into account through innovative approaches is beneficial for business, people and the planet.
Format: to be decided.



Day 1 – Building action for nature and people: The role of businesses and financial institutions

17.00 – 17.40 PL4 INSPIRATIONAL	Connecting the dots for Business and Nature <u>Objective:</u> Bringing together the lessons learned from the group sessions (GS) to highlight how businesses can make strong commitments to the Action Agenda for Nature and People . <u>Format:</u> One speakers from each of the GS will be asked to come forward with one statement on how the topics addressed in their session can help businesses make strong commitments.
17.50 – 18.00 PL5	Closing session: Lessons learned from Day 1 <u>Objective:</u> Present the lessons learned from Day 1 in a lively way and introduce Day 2. <u>Format:</u> to be decided.

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Draft agenda – 8 November 2019

Day 2 – Building action for nature and people: Public-private alliances and innovations to leverage business action

Moderator: Eva Zabey, Director, Redefining Value – WBCSD

Objective of the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Day 2 will stress on the need to turn business engagements into actions. It will focus on the role and benefits of public-private collaborations and existing frameworks to engage the business community on nature, accelerate business change and facilitate sustainability transitions in the economy. ■ The day will be structured around the following sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 4: Building a thriving planet and society together: How do we move away from business as usual? – 5 – Breaking the natural capital bubble: How to embed biodiversity and natural capital across business sectors? – 6 – The road to post 2020 / 2030: How to engage businesses and build lasting partnerships to accelerate change and build momentum for biodiversity on the EU and global agenda?
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Session 4 – Building a thriving planet and society together: How do we move away from business as usual?

9.00 – 9.20 PL6 INSPIRATIONAL	<p>Keynote speech</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The objective of this keynote speech is to build on the readiness from businesses to act on nature as expressed during Day 1 and stress the absolute necessity to now turn these words into actions. The speech will also emphasize the need for policy makers to engage with businesses to create the right incentives and framework to help them move away from business as usual.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> keynote speech</p>
9.20 – 10.35 GS7 EDUCATIONAL	<p>Investing in green infrastructure and nature-based solutions at the local level</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> This session will explore the role of local and subnational authorities in the development of an ambitious Action Agenda for Nature, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It will investigate how they can engage with businesses at their level to notably demonstrate the investment opportunities for and support the development of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> to be decided.</p>
9.20 – 10.35 GS8 EDUCATIONAL	<p>Strategies and frameworks to engage businesses on biodiversity</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Explore how governments can support and engage businesses (beyond the coalition of the willing) on biodiversity issues. This session will highlight strategies and models that exist to foster engagement and the drivers (motivation model) that need to be installed from a business perspective to engage. These key questions will be explored based on various experiences from Member States and regional governments.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> to be decided.</p>
9.20 – 10.35 GS9 INSPIRATIONAL	<p>Combining forces: building the bridge between natural capital approaches</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> This session will explore the links between corporate and government experiences with natural capital accounting, show the benefits of working collaboratively and, in particular, discuss how to build the bridge between them to boost their use across sectors in a more</p>



Day 2 – Building action for nature and people: Public-private alliances and innovations to leverage business action

efficient and beneficial way. It will also bring in experiences from the NCC’s Combining Forces Project and the UNSDs evaluation and discussion of the [United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting](#) (UN SEEA) framework.

Format: Short introductions to frame the topic for later roundtable discussions

10.35 – 11.00 **Coffee**

Session 5 – Breaking the natural capital bubble: How to embed biodiversity and natural capital across business sectors?

11.00 – 12.15 Linking the biodiversity and circular economy agendas

GS10
TECHNICAL

Objective: Despite its obvious relation to natural capital and biodiversity, actions to build a circular economy are only poorly linked to natural capital accounting by businesses. The session will explore how the circular economy can be developed in balance with natural capital. This is challenging, as both developments have their own transition path, with different speeds in different sectors. An important element for facilitating integration is uniform or at least aligned metrics. This session will explore how we can connect circular economy metrics developed by organisations WBCSD with metrics providing insights on business impacts and dependencies on natural capital, including the whole supply chain and end of use.

Format: to be decided.

11.00 – 12.15 Engaging with biodiversity throughout the supply chain

GS11
TECHNICAL

Objective: This session will focus on strategies set by businesses to influence decision-making throughout their supply chain. Impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity can happen anywhere in the business supply chain and with different levels of impact. Green purchasing and sustainable sourcing are critical aspects to ensure that biodiversity is fully integrated into corporate management. The session intends to show how businesses can adopt schemes to take better account of biodiversity impacts in their purchasing or hiring decisions.

Format: to be decided.

11.00 – 12.15 Finance roundtable

GS12
TECHNICAL

Objective: Engaging the finance sector is key to successfully establish the foundations that contribute to make progress towards our common goal of building more sustainable economies and societies. Corporate financial managers and asset managers are increasingly including environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects within their investment decisions (SRI) due to two main reasons: (i) the growing interest on ESG risk management and (ii) the investment opportunities derived from the transition towards a low-carbon economy and progress towards SDGs. Investment community key actor representatives participating in this round table will provide an overall picture about why reporting on impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and natural capital (linking this to reporting schemes) is highly important to them.

Format: to be decided.

Session 6 – The road to post 2020 / 2030: How to engage businesses and build lasting partnerships to accelerate change and build momentum for nature?

12:15 – 13:30 2nd high-level panel

PL7
INSPIRATIONAL

Objective: This session will stress the need to continue building the momentum towards the CBD COP 15. It will investigate how to keep the topic of biodiversity high on the international political agenda in the coming months. The session will also look at the necessary



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combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches and legally binding and non-binding elements to generate a logic of change. While recognising differences between climate change mitigation and adaptation on the one hand, and biodiversity conservation on the other, the development of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) offers useful insights for creating a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This session will explore the lessons to be learnt from the development of the Paris Agreement building on the PBL paper: [“From Paris to Beijing: Insights gained from the UNFCCC Paris Agreement for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”](#).

Format: Panel debate.

13.30 – 14.30

Closing lunch

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