

European Business & Nature Summit

GS4 — Towards common ground in biodiversity measurement approaches for business

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7 & 8 November 2019

#BusinessNatureSummit



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ALIGNING BIODIVERSITY MEASURES FOR BUSINESS

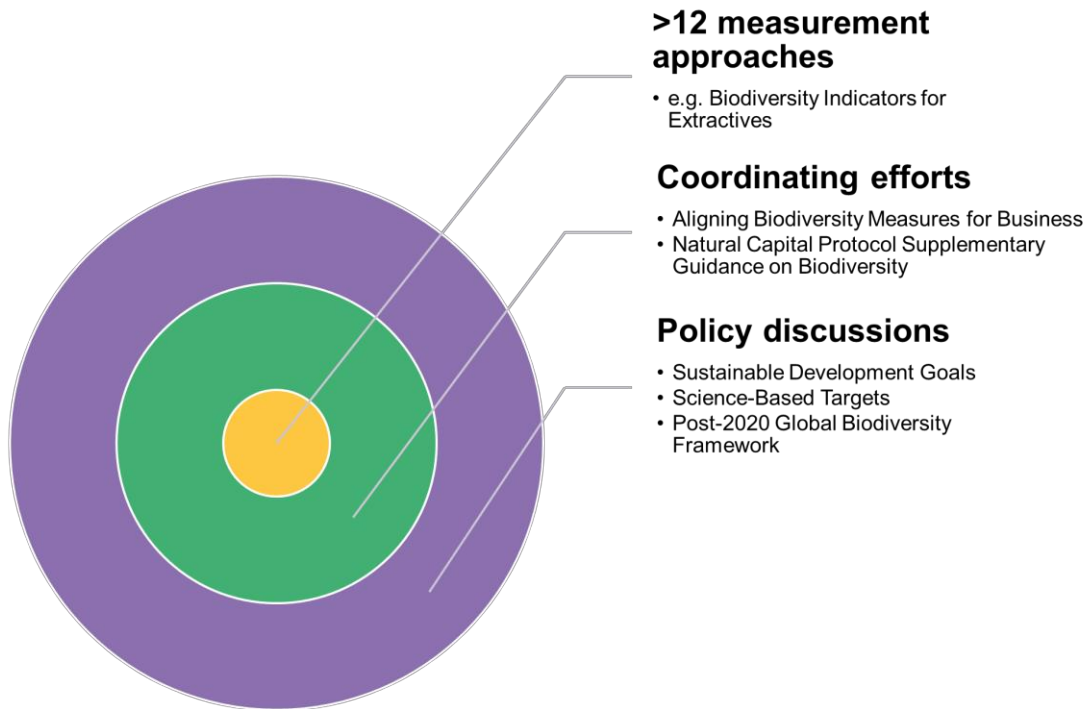
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Trends in corporate biodiversity measurement approaches

- Increasing demand for **credible reporting and disclosure** approaches driven by investors, policy makers and businesses
- 2016 recommendations from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and IUCN World Conservation Congress for **enhanced transparency** and **better reporting and disclosure**
- Update of **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) indicators** under consideration
- Significant progress made recently, with **broad landscape** of measurement approaches under development



Finding common ground between approaches



Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business

Aim

- To form a common view among key stakeholders on the **measurement, monitoring and disclosure** of corporate biodiversity impact and dependence
- To build on this to help integrate more **credible** and **comprehensive** measurement approaches of corporate contribution to **global biodiversity goals** into corporate reporting and global policy frameworks

Outcome

- A unified foundation for development and use of corporate biodiversity performance indicators to **evaluate the effectiveness** of the management of impacts and dependence and **address international goals**

Work conducted with the generous support of:

Partners involved:



Brussels Workshop, 26-27 March 2019

Joint workshop with the EU Business@Biodiversity Platform:

- Convened more than **50 institutions**
- In-depth exploration of the methodologies behind **12+ biodiversity measurement approaches**
- Laying the foundation for **common principles** among biodiversity measurement approaches
- **Five sub-groups** established to drive the work forward over phone-call and virtual meetings



SG 1: Business applications and targets

Aims:

- To agree on a **typology of business applications and targets** to help business select a relevant biodiversity measurement approach
- To map biodiversity measurement approaches to business applications and targets
- To agree on **common vocabulary** of relevant terms
- To identify **common ground principles**, e.g. relevant, target-focused, transparent, consistent

Outputs include:

- ✓ Refined criteria for business applications
- ✓ Decision tree and guidance for business

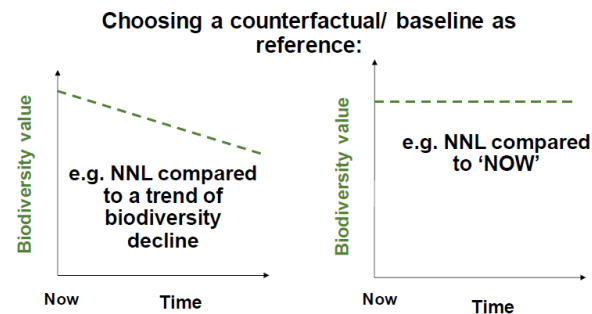
SG 2: Scope, boundaries and baselines

Aims:

- To determine how **scope, boundaries, and baselines** are treated within current measurement approaches
- To agree on **common vocabulary** of relevant terms
- To identify **common ground principles** in setting boundaries, e.g. transparency, appropriate, clarity

Outputs include:

- ✓ Documenting areas of convergence and divergence
- ✓ Crosswalk of terminology for developers of biodiversity measurement approaches



Differences between a baseline vs counterfactual frame of reference. NNL = no net loss biodiversity. (Amrei von Hase and Erin Parham BBOP 15 Conference, Paris 27 & 29 November 2018)

SG 3: Data and metrics

Aims:

- To **map datasets** required by biodiversity measurement approaches and identify **common input indicators and formats**
- To **determine links** between site and corporate/portfolio level measurement approaches and how **datasets differ or complement** each other
- To explore the **differences between metrics** and propose **bridges**
- To identify **common ground principles**, e.g. rigor, responsiveness, compatibility

Outputs include:

- ✓ Common nomenclature
- ✓ Exploration of linking approaches that rely on data estimates and proxies with approaches that rely on measured data



Use of data accuracy scale to reflect data accuracy and precision.

SG 4: Disclosure

Aims:

- To explore the **required narrative** around biodiversity measurement approaches, bringing in lessons learned from **financial reporting and accounting**
- To determine how the measurement approaches meet **disclosure requirements**, link to existing disclosure approaches and fit within **policy discussions on the post 2020 global biodiversity framework**
- To identify **common ground principles**, e.g. clarity, credibility

Outputs include:

- ✓ Review of enabling conditions and barriers for uptake of biodiversity measurement approaches
- ✓ Analysis of disclosure initiatives relevant for measurement approaches for credible corporate disclosure and reporting

Rio Workshop, 29-31 October 2019

Day 1

- Broad level information exchange on the **business case for indicators, company needs for measurement**, and **lessons learned** from corporate application of biodiversity measurement approaches to date
- Mixture of presentations, panel discussions and small group discussions
- Aimed at **business, finance** and developers of biodiversity measurement approaches

Days 2 & 3

- Share progress made on **identifying areas of common ground and divergence**, and develop **recommendations and guidance** for the developers of measurements approaches, private sector and policy makers on common ground methodologies measuring corporate biodiversity performance
- Aimed at **developers** and **users** of biodiversity measurement approaches

Rio Workshop, 29-31 October 2019

Outcomes:

- **Substantial progress** made in identifying common ground among measurement approaches
- More than 50 participants in Rio on Day 1 (with **>40% representing business**) and ~25 remote participants
- However, further work is needed to embed this thinking within decisions through **guidance and recommendations** for business, policy makers and developers



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