



European Business and Nature Summit

Building action for nature and people

7 & 8 November 2019, Madrid

- High level summary for business leaders and policy makers -

More than 300 delegates of business and finance joined also by government and civil society representatives convened on 7-8 November 2019 for the [European Business and Nature Summit](#), (EBNS) which was also the annual gathering of the [EU Business and Biodiversity Platform](#). The summit happened in Madrid back-to-back with annual meetings of the [Global Partnership Business and Biodiversity](#) on 5th and the Natural Capital Coalition on 6th November jointly representing the [Natural Capital Week 2019](#).

Welcomed by Hugo Morán (Secretary of State for Environment from the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition) and Terhi Lehtonen (Secretary of State of Finland) on Day 1 and addressed by Daniel Calleja (European Commission Director General for Environment) on Day 2, leading international and European business networks (including [WEF](#), [ICC](#), [WBCSD](#), [NCC](#), [CSR Europe](#)) brought their communities together in advance of the key political decisions on nature in 2020 aiming to strengthen the role of businesses in supporting nature conservation and its sustainable use.

The European Business and Nature Summit highlighted progresses made by businesses and financial institutions to better account for their impacts and dependencies on nature. Businesses and financial institutions explained how a natural capital approach is enabling them to deliver value for nature and people and giving them the tools necessary to mitigate risk and to identify opportunities for efficiency, resilience and innovation.

The summit displayed existing and new business actions and commitments that shall contribute to the UN Biodiversity's [Action Agenda for Nature and People](#) as part of the global biodiversity framework that countries are expected to adopt during the 15th CBD COP in Kunming in 2020.

The summit saw a number of promising best practice examples also at national level with the [Spanish green growth group](#) and good progress on methodologies for business to measure the foot print and dependencies on natural capital and biodiversity and strong calls to measure company impact and set targets as well as expectations for the EU to promote this agenda and facilitate an EU wide business commitment for the post 2020 biodiversity framework.

There was a clear call that to make business part of the solution, it is essential for the corporate decision-makers to gain comprehensive insights into both the impacts and the dependencies of their products and processes on natural capital throughout the value chain. The way to achieve this - Natural Capital Accounting - forms a key to transforming today's business as usual which is yet entirely based on accounting for financial risks and returns only and (too) often focused only on the short-term. There was also a clear call to policy makers to facilitate the alignment of the respective approaches developed by business and to support companies in developing generally accepted accounting principles as well as supporting the global uptake of natural capital accounting and related risks management.

The summit included training on the value of nature for individual companies as part of the [We Value Nature](#) Campaign to learn how businesses can integrate natural capital and biodiversity into business decision-making and about the increasing number of tools available.

The summit demonstrated that business activities for biodiversity and natural capital are getting momentum in the run up to 2020 – more companies recognise that protecting, restoring and understanding their relationship with nature is in their own economic interest and that business has to play a leading role in



convincing governments that an urgent response to the loss of nature is required - salient new initiatives presented in this regard were:

- **[Business for Nature](#)** - a global umbrella coalition and new alliance of over 30 leading business and conservation organisations unifying for a business voice to encourage ambitious policy on nature in 2020 is calling for action to reverse nature loss and restore the planet's vital natural systems on which economies, wellbeing and prosperity depend.
- **[One Planet Business for Biodiversity \(OP2B\)](#)** - a unique international cross-sectorial, action-oriented business coalition on biodiversity with a specific focus on agriculture determined to drive transformational systemic change and catalyse action to protect and restore cultivated and natural biodiversity within the value chains, engage institutional and financial decision-makers, and develop and promote policy recommendations in the CBD COP 15 framework to be held in 2020.
- **[Value Balancing Alliance](#)** – founded by BASF, Bosch, Deutsche Bank, LafargeHolcim, Novartis, Philip Morris International, SAP and SK in 2019 and supported by Deloitte, EY, KPMG, PwC, the OECD, leading universities and other stakeholders from government, civil society and standard-setting organizations the value balancing alliance aims to create a standardized model for measuring and disclosing the environmental, human, social and financial value companies provide to society.

The EBNS also highlighted recent initiatives by financial institutions and businesses to achieve net positive impact on nature. In a finance round table, key actor representatives from the investment community participating stressed why disclosure and reporting on impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and natural capital (linking this to reporting schemes) is highly important to them. The finance roundtable stressed that engaging the finance sector is key to make progress towards sustainable economies and societies and that 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 carbon neutral and a no-net-loss of biodiversity economy. For the aim to get to 100% sustainable finance in 2050 in Europe, environmental accounting, positive impact finance and disclosure are key.

The agenda and speakers of the EBNS can be found [here](#).

The events web streams are available here:

- Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho5ldHO5I7E>
- Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcCxZSI8xjY>



Organising partners

Organising entities



Collaborating entities



Funding entities

