

FACTSHEET

WHY BIODIVERSITY IS MATERIAL TO EVERY BUSINESS

Following the 2022 COP15 – the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversityⁱ – a global agreement to protect and restore biodiversity was agreed. This factsheet explores how businesses can work with nature and identifies the drivers for change.

Background

On the final day of negotiations, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)ⁱⁱ was adopted. The GBF seeks to combat the loss of biodiversity, safeguard indigenous rights, and restore ecosystems. It features specific measures to halt and reverse the decline of natural systems, such as safeguarding 30% of the planet and 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. Additionally, the GBF includes proposals to enhance funding to developing countries.

Across the world, 150-200 species are being lost every dayⁱⁱⁱ, and the UK has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the industrial revolution^{iv}.

Humans are part of nature and everything we depend on to live as individuals, to thrive as communities and to prosper as businesses depends on the health of nature^v.

Businesses are now beginning to understand that biodiversity – the variety of life on Earth essential for clean air, water and food^{vi} – is a material concern and that loss of biodiversity presents a huge business risk that can no longer be ignored.

Every business uses air, water and land as part of its operations and employs people who need food, water, housing and green spaces.

For too long, businesses and governments have viewed climate and biodiversity as separate issues when, in fact, we need nature, in all its astonishing diversity, to help the world adapt to and mitigate climate change. In short, we need nature to get us to net zero.

This isn't about planting trees to offset the use of carbon but about businesses working with nature – on their sites, within communities and through their supply chains – to restore biodiversity, store carbon and support the natural systems that support us.

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Leading businesses recognise this, and it has been fantastic hearing from companies like Lidl NI^{vii} and Felix O'Hare^{viii} in recent months about the work they're doing to invest in nature.

Working with nature

Business in the Community's [Business and Biodiversity Charter](#) provides a framework to help businesses in Northern Ireland engage with biodiversity, develop their biodiversity initiatives, and provides external recognition for companies involved.

The aims of the Biodiversity Charter are to:

- Provide a framework for organisations of all sizes to address their impact on biodiversity, not only in terms of land-holding management but also in relation to their activities, products and services
- Provide a mechanism for third-party recognition of organisations' biodiversity management
- Give employees the capacity to undertake biodiversity-related actions at home, and in their communities outside work
- Enable employees to gain the health and wellbeing benefits associated with green space/biodiversity activities
- Foster links between environmental organisations, business and the community

Nature-based solutions and improved biodiversity not only mitigate risks from extreme weather events and pollution but actively draw down and store carbon, reducing global warming and resulting climate change. Businesses like Mannok^{ix} are also harnessing the power of nature to [support employee wellbeing](#). Working with and investing in nature

benefits people, the climate, biodiversity and business productivity.

Drivers for Change

Customers and the public want businesses to take action to protect and restore nature. According to the latest data by BITC and YouGov, almost 80% of people see 'damage to nature' and 'biodiversity loss' as top climate concerns, while 94% of people say businesses are either not doing enough to tackle damage to nature and biodiversity loss or they don't know what businesses are doing.

Regulatory and investor pressure are already pushing businesses to act, with investors now asking companies what they are doing to protect and restore nature, even when their activities don't directly impact them. [The Taskforce on Nature-Based Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#) and new rules on Biodiversity Net Gain in the [Environment Act](#) are also driving business action.

What to do next

If you are not yet a member, [join us to take climate action](#) and [visit our Climate Action and Environment webpage](#) for information and evidence on nature-based solutions.

[Watch this excellent video from The Natural History Museum](#), featuring Greta Thunberg and Dr Adriana De Palma, which provides a great explainer of the importance of biodiversity for business and communities.

Join hundreds of global businesses, many of them BITC members, in calling for protections for the natural environment to be made mandatory in [Business For Nature's campaign](#).

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Other organisations in Northern Ireland provide help and support on biodiversity

/nature. Click here to access the [Biodiversity Repository of Initiatives](#).

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- [find out more about our **environment, climate and biodiversity** work](#)
- [learn more about our advisory services](#)
- [join us for one of our upcoming events](#)



Talk to one of our expert team [today](#) to learn how membership of BITC can help you take your responsible business journey further and to drive lasting global change.

REFERENCES

ⁱ [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

ⁱⁱ [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ [John Vidal, The Guardian, \(August 2010\), Protect nature for world economic security, warns UN chief](#)

^{iv} [Patrick Barkham, The Guardian, \(June 2022\) Britain ranks bottom in Europe for nature connectedness](#)

^v [IUCN \(May 2013\) Biodiversity and water: two of a kind | IUCN](#)

^{vi} [Air pollution, ecosystems and biodiversity | UNECE](#)

^{vii} [Lidl NI](#)

^{viii} [Felix O'Hare](#)

^{ix} [Mannok](#)