

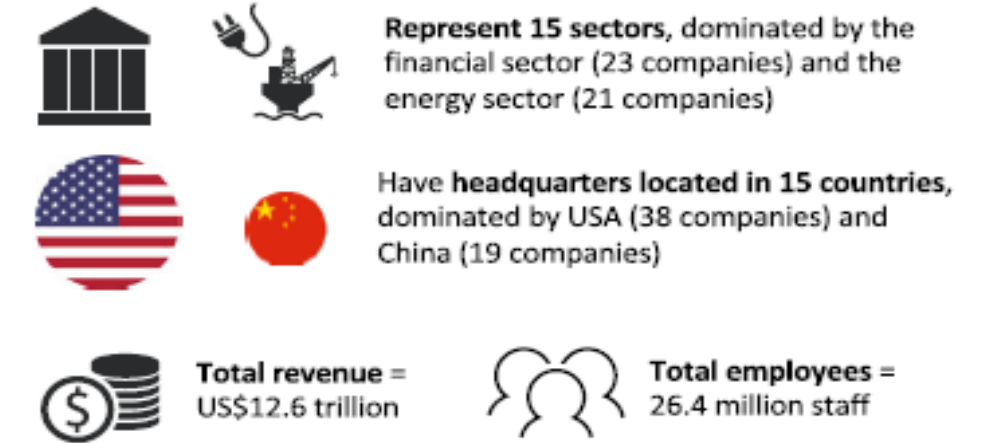
ALIGNING BIODIVERSITY MEASURES FOR BUSINESS

Katie Leach @KatieLLeach

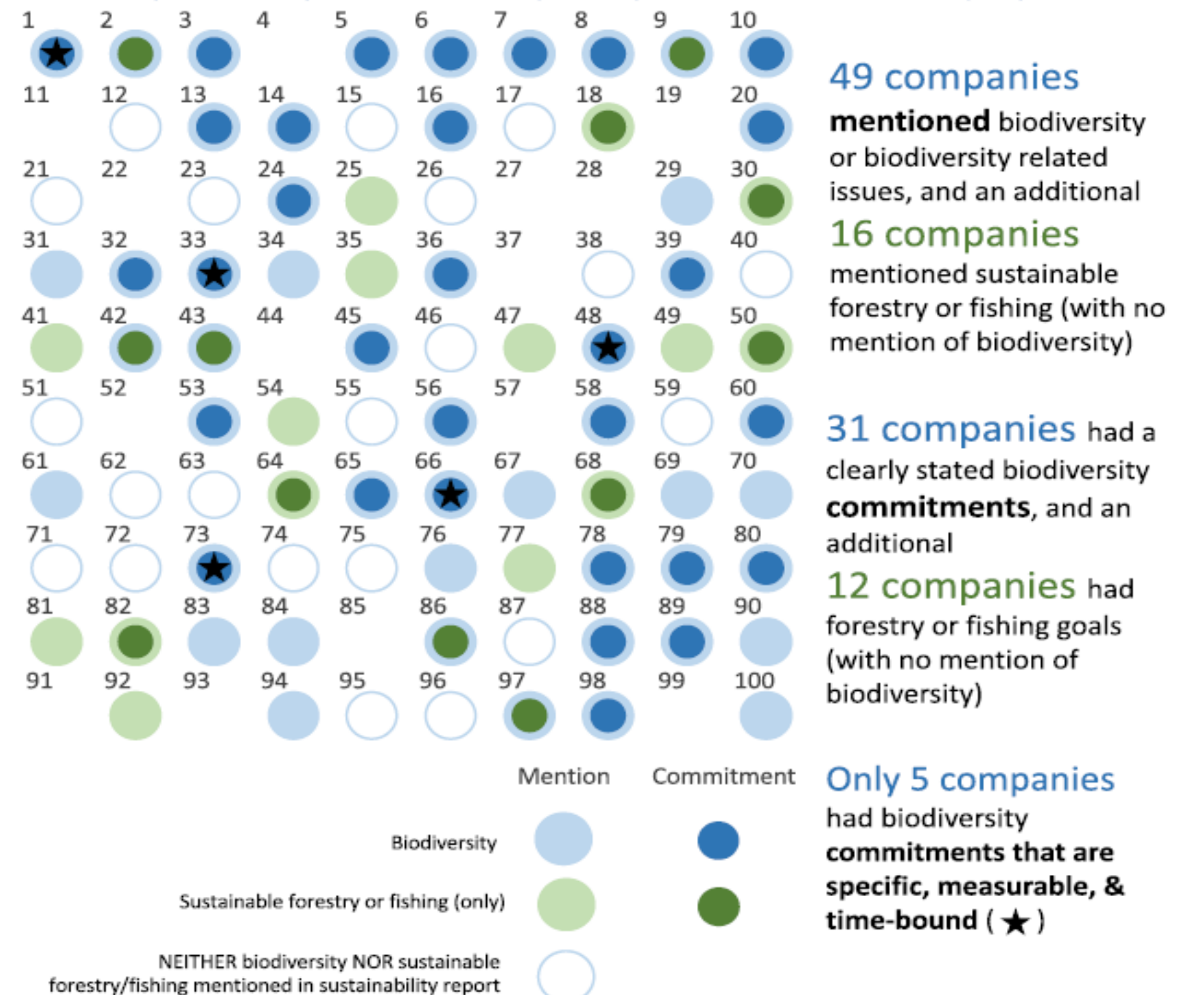
Global biodiversity reporting

- Global reporting is hampered by a **lack of broadly agreed** measurement approaches
- Progress towards corporate biodiversity commitments are **reported on qualitatively** rather than quantitatively
- The Sustainable Development Goals most closely related to biodiversity are those **most poorly reported against**

2016 Fortune 100 Global companies:



Of the **top 100** companies, **86** have publicly available sustainability reports:



From Addison et al (2018)

Policy-level biodiversity targets

- Looking to develop an **equivalent to the Climate Change 2°C target** to drive corporate action
- To be aligned with the **post-2020 global biodiversity framework**:
 - Global application of the **mitigation hierarchy** framework?
 - Establishing **science-based targets**, based on the planetary boundaries thinking?



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



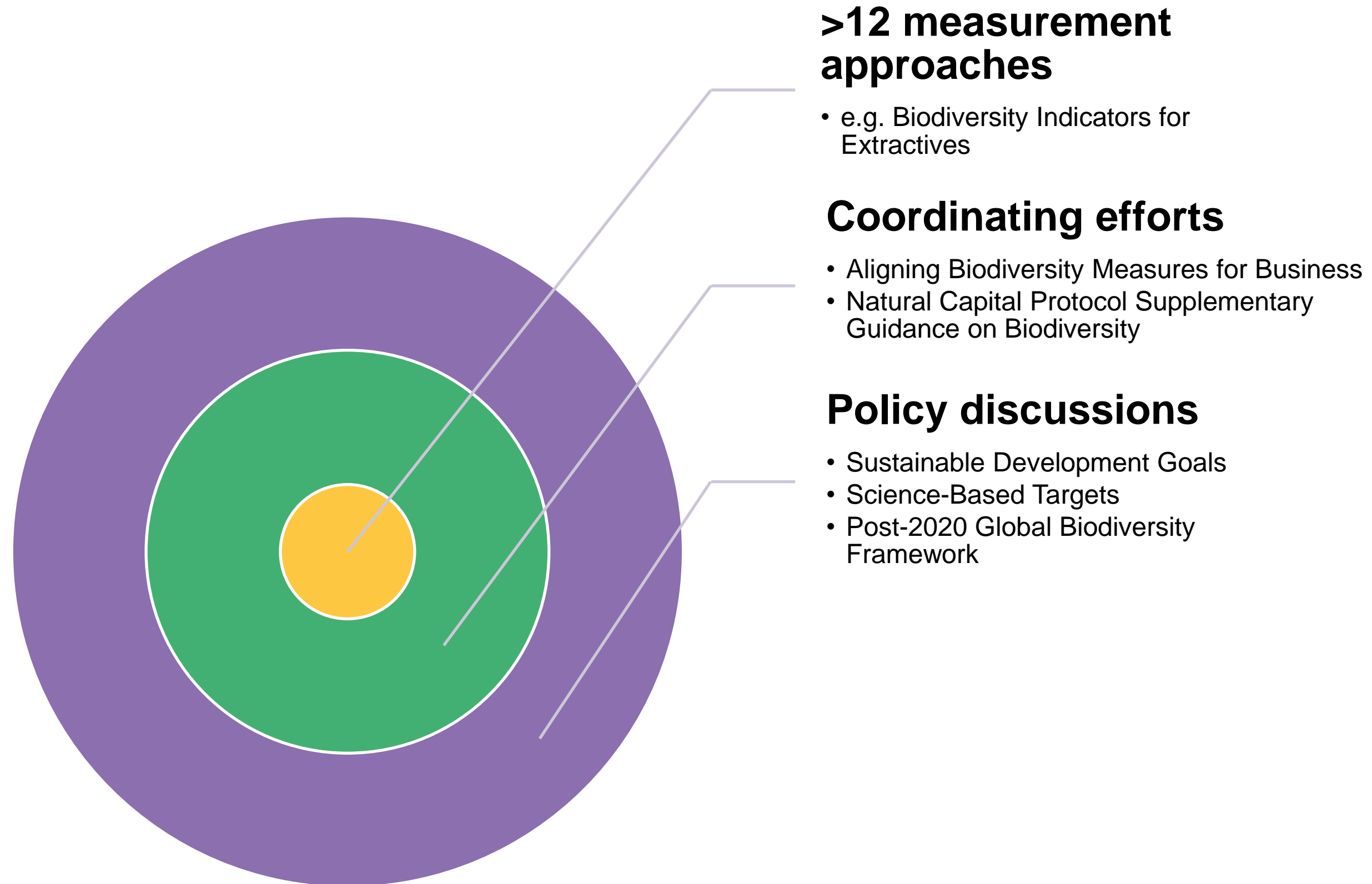
The landscape of biodiversity measurement approaches

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED	ORGANISATIONAL FOCUS					
	PRODUCT/SERVICE	SITE/PROJECT	SUPPLY CHAIN	CORPORATE	PORTFOLIO/SECTOR	COUNTRY/REGION
1. Current performance	ABD, PBF	ABD, LIFE, BIE, STAR, BD, BMS, BPT	ABD, LIFE, BD, PBF, BIM, BMS, EPL	BD, GBS, BIE, LIFE, BIM, BMS, EPL	BFFI, LIFE, GBS	ABD, LIFE
2. Future performance	PBF	LIFE, STAR, BPT	LIFE, PBF	GBS, LIFE	BFFI, LIFE, GBS	LIFE
3. Tracking target progress	ABD, PBF	ABD, BIE, BD, LIFE, STAR	ABD, STAR, BD, LIFE	ABD, BIE, BD, LIFE, GBS, STAR, EPL	ABD, LIFE, BFFI, STAR, GBS	ABD, STAR
4. Comparing options	ABD, PBF	ABD, STAR, BIE	ABD, LIFE, BIM, EPL	ABD, BIM, BIE, GBS, EPL	ABD, GBS, BFFI, LIFE	ABD, LIFE
5. Third party assessments/ ratings		LIFE		GBS, LIFE, EPL	GBS, LIFE, BFFI	LIFE
6. Third party certification		BD, LIFE, BMS	BD, LIFE, BMS	BD, LIFE, BMS	LIFE	LIFE
7. Risk & opportunity assessment	ABD	ABD, BIE, BPT	ABD, EPL	ABD, BIE, EPL	ABD	ABD

Key

ABD	Agrobiodiversity index
BFFI	Biodiversity Footprint Financials
BIM	Biodiversity Impact Metric
BMS	Biodiversity Monitoring System for the Food Sector
BIE	Biodiversity Indicators for Extractives
BD	Biological Diversity Protocol
GBS	Global Biodiversity Score
EPL	Kering's Environment Profit & Loss
LIFE	LIFE Impact Index
PBF	Product Biodiversity Footprint
STAR	Species Threat Abatement & Recovery
BPT	Biodiversity Performance Tool

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:

Fundação
GrupoBoticário 

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

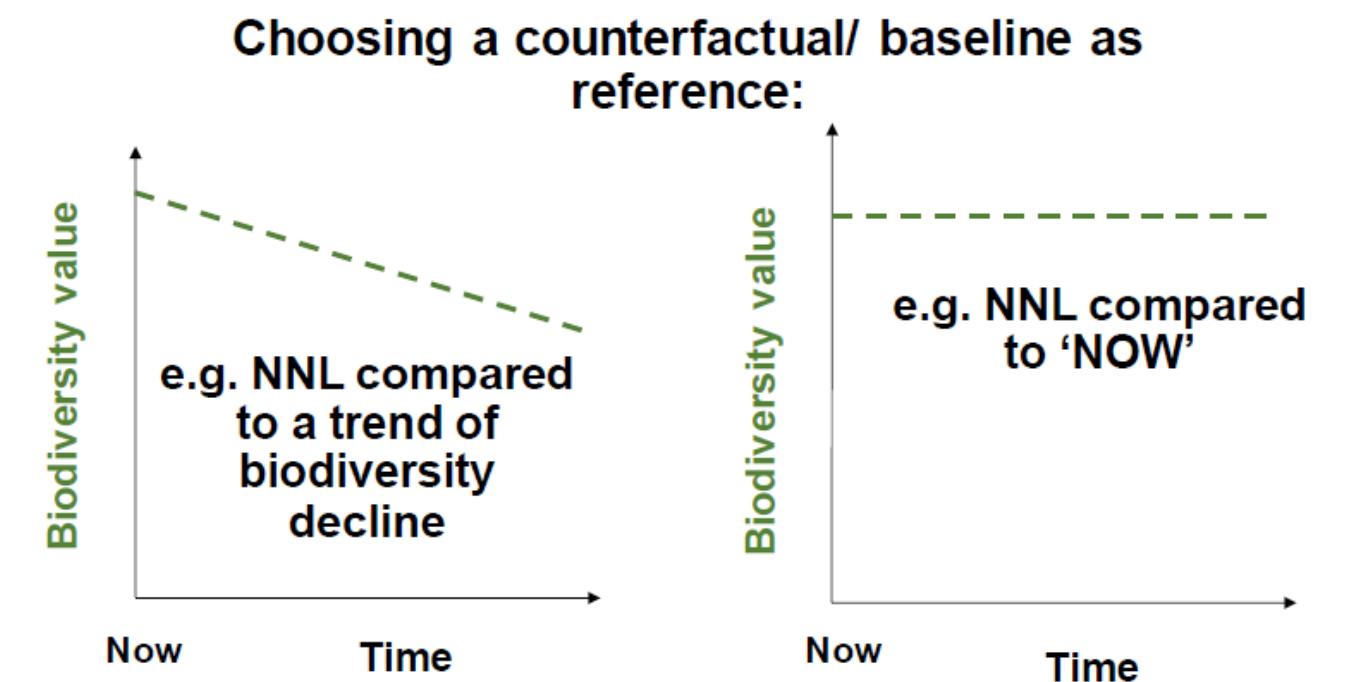
SG 2: Scope, boundaries and baselines

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)

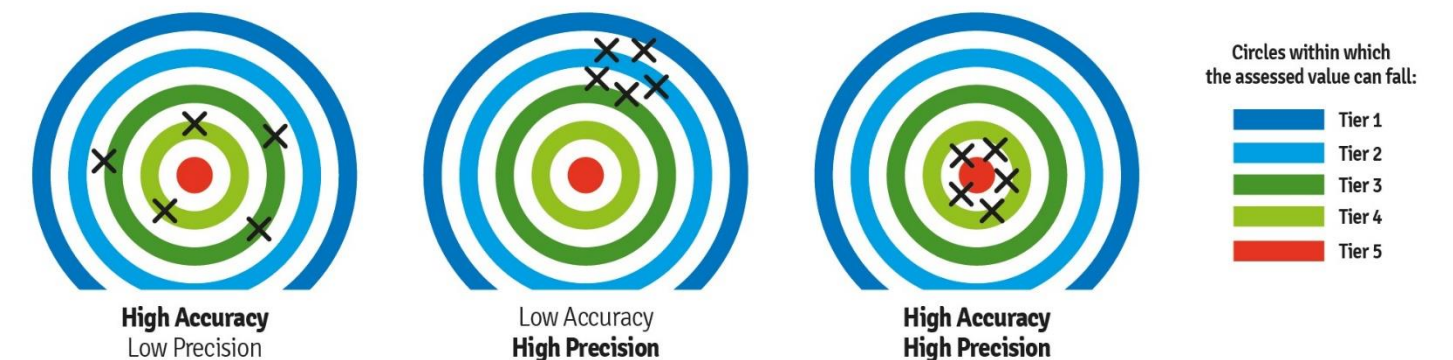
SG 3: Data and metrics

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



Additional resources

- **Assessment of biodiversity accounting approaches for business and financial institutions**, by Lammerant (2018) for the EU Business@Biodiversity platform
- **The development and use of biodiversity indicators in business: an overview**, by Addison *et al.* (2018) for IUCN
- **Guidance for reporting by businesses on their actions related to biodiversity**, by the Convention on Biological Diversity (2016)

katie.leach@unep-wcmc.org

unep-wcmc.org

Facebook: [@unepwcmc](https://www.facebook.com/unepwcmc)

Twitter: [@unepwcmc](https://twitter.com/unepwcmc) [@KatieLLeach](https://twitter.com/KatieLLeach)

Linkedin: [UNEP-WCMC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unep-wcmc)

Youtube: [UNEP-WCMC Communications](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz8j8j8j8j8j8j8j8j8j8j)