



## **The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity**

### **Activities report by member initiatives**

#### **EUROPEAN UNION – The EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform**

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Please describe the activities and projects that your initiative has been undertaking in the previous year:

#### **1. EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform relaunch :**

2017 saw a relaunch of the EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform. Set up by the European Commission with the aim to work with and help businesses integrate natural capital and biodiversity considerations into business practices it agreed a revised mission statement for 2017-2019 which highlights: Every business impacts on, and depends on, biodiversity and natural capital to some degree, and as a result will experience risks and/or opportunities. These impacts and dependencies create costs and benefits not only for the business, but also for society. The European Commission and the members of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform agree that there is much to gain both for nature and for businesses from better understanding the interdependencies between business activities and biodiversity and natural capital.

The EU B@B Platform's objectives are to:

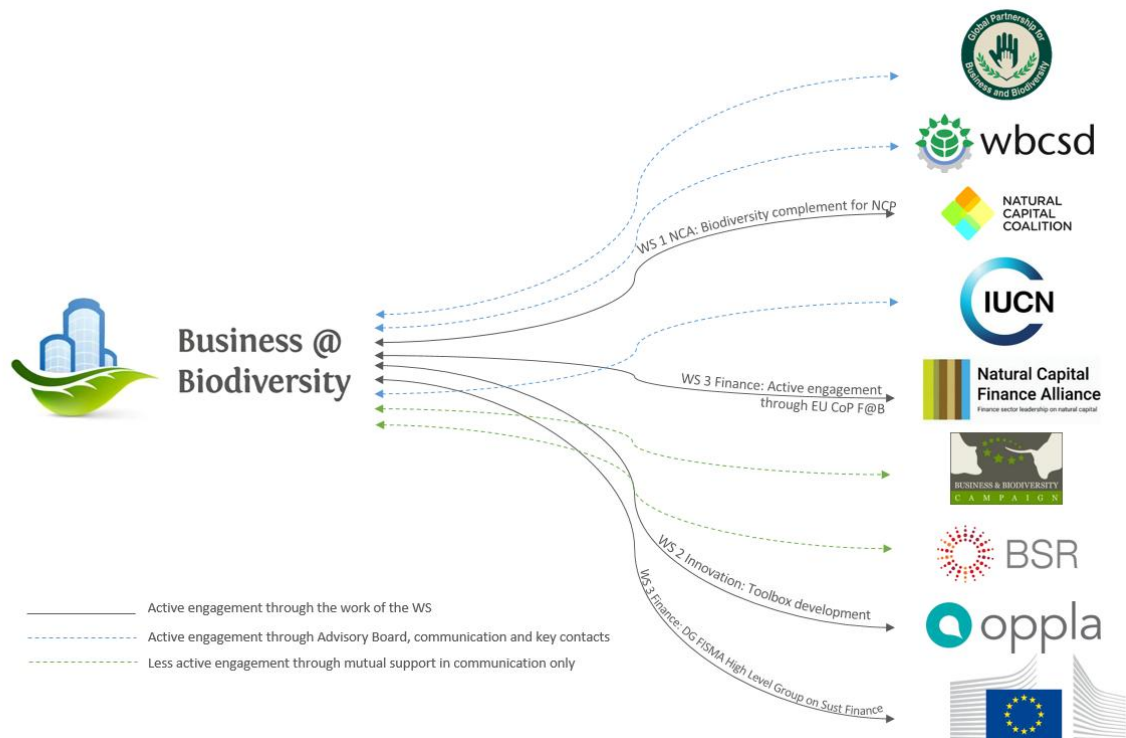
- Work with businesses to develop tools and approaches that promote the integration of biodiversity and natural capital considerations into business practices;
- Offer an EU level forum for sustained and strategic dialogue about the links between business and biodiversity; and
- Promote better communication, increased awareness and improved co-ordination in relation to business and biodiversity activities.

By pursuing its objectives, the EU B@B Platform seeks to protect and conserve biodiversity across the EU and beyond, thereby helping to deliver on the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. The European Commission believes that businesses have a strong role to play in halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity.

Partners:

The EU B@B Platform also aims to strengthen the representation of European businesses in key international initiatives and to build synergies amongst national initiatives supporting the

integration of biodiversity and natural capital considerations into business practices. This mainstreaming and partnership strategy has been successful in 2017



#### Outcomes:

The EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform (EU B@B) has been increasing its membership in 2017 by 13% to some 340 member- companies and organisations.

Examples of successful mainstreaming into other policy areas include:

- A dedicated call under the EU Research funding instrument H2020: [Valuing nature: mainstreaming natural capital in policies and in business decision-making](#)

- New reporting obligations for large companies under business. EU law requires large companies to disclose certain information on the way they operate and manage social and environmental challenges. [Directive 2014/95/EU](#) lays down the rules on disclosure of non-financial information by large companies. Companies are required to include non-financial statements in their annual reports from 2018 onwards. The respective guidelines provide a number of examples on how companies may report the guidelines refer to the life-cycle assessment, environmental impact, natural resource use, impacts and dependencies on natural capital and biodiversity, as well as the development of green products and services.

- Promoting biodiversity and natural capital in ongoing policy consultations as key components for sustainable finance.

- Further steps: Continue contributing to ongoing policy consultations in 2018 with the aim of the mainstreaming biodiversity into business decision making.

## 2. Cooperation with Natural Capital Coalition

- Cooperation with Natural Capital Coalition to further strengthen the biodiversity component of corporate natural capital assessments :  
The EU B@B workstream on NCA aims to enhance knowledge development and knowledge sharing on biodiversity accounting approaches amongst EU businesses, in order to increase internal and external communication on company biodiversity performance. In 2017 the objectives of the NCA workstream consisted of establishing closer cooperation with partner organisations (e.g. Natural Capital Coalition (NCC) and Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)) to work on the biodiversity component of NCA toolkits and guides, and exploring possibilities for using national or regional NCA mapping for business applications. On 19 September EU B@B workstream on NCA (in cooperation with NCC, CCI and WBCSD) hold the first workshop to scope out the business needs the biodiversity component of corporate natural capital assessments
- Partners:  
In particular the Natural Capital Coalition (NCC) and Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- Outcomes:  
Interim results of the scoping workshop can be read here:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/news/news-29\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/news/news-29_en.htm)
- Further steps:  
Continue the international cooperation with the aim to come up with a biodiversity supplement to the Natural Capital Protocol.

## 3 . Connecting to innovation and funding tools

- EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform (EU B@B) has been working on innovation in business related to biodiversity since several years. In the context of the mainstreaming efforts EU B@B has reinforced its cooperation with DG Research in several workshops and webinars during the year in order to facilitate better contacts of businesses to biodiversity innovation tools and vice versa
- Outcomes and further steps: the B@B Outreach on research funding possibilities has been increased.

## 4 . Community of Practice Finance and Biodiversity

The EU B@B Finance workstream is running since 2017 the CoP on Finance@Biodiversity with 15 financial institutions engaged including [Actiam](#), [ASN Bank](#), [AXA Investment Managers](#), [CDC Biodiversité](#), [Conservation Capital](#), [Degroof Petercam](#), [Ebanka](#), [EIB](#), [GLS Bank](#), [Finance in Motion](#), [FMO](#), [ING Belgium](#), [Mirova](#) and [Piraeus Bank](#). Supporting platforms are [CDSB](#), [NCC](#), [NCFA](#) and [VBDO](#).

As stated in its [Mission Statement](#), the EU CoP F@B provides a “forum of dialogue between financial institutions (FIs) to share experiences, raise awareness and promote best practices at EU level on how to integrate biodiversity and natural capital into mainstream financial activities and foster investments in

natural capital as a new asset class". It aims to accelerate the process of learning and support implementation both at strategic level and in practical experience, thereby supporting the transition towards a sustainable financial sector.

Four meetings were organised by the CoP Finance@Biodiversity in 2017:

- Kick-off and setting the agenda (21 March)
- Biodiversity Accounting of Investments and Portfolio's (29 June)
- Positive Impact (28 September)
- Ambition & Responsibility (8 November 2017)

➤ Partners: See above

➤ Outcomes:

The EU Community of Practice Finance and Biodiversity has highlighted the strong demand from the financial sector to have available robust tools and methodologies to assess and quantify biodiversity and natural capital related risks of both individual investments and whole investment portfolios – more detail on ongoing discussions can be seen here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/resources/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/resources/index_en.htm)

➤ Further steps: The EU Community of Practice Finance and Biodiversity will continue its discussion with the aim to contribute to the discourse that sustainable/green finance must not be limited to just climate investment but expended a far broader understanding on natural capital and biodiversity

#### 5. EU B@B Annual conference Business, biodiversity & natural capital | Ambitions, risks & opportunities"

On 4-5 October 2017, the EU B@B Platform and the Global Nature Fund (GNF) joined forces to organise an international conference with the aim to tackle the challenge for businesses in integrating biodiversity and natural capital. Under the common motto "Business, biodiversity & natural capital | Ambitions, risks & opportunities" the conference brought front-runners and newcomers together with leading scientists, government officials and nature conservation organisations at the Nestle Competence Centre in Frankfurt, Germany.

➤ Partners: See above

➤ Outcomes: [a short summary](#) of both days and respective presentations below:

[Plenary: keynote speakers](#)

[Breakout session on Natural Capital Accounting](#)

[Breakout session on Innovation for Biodiversity and Business](#)

[Breakout session on Finance](#)

➤ Further steps: Also in 2018 the EU B@B platform will organise its Annual B@B conference

### EU B@B activities planned for the coming year 2018:

1. In 2018 the NCA workstream will continue to encourage businesses to complete NCA and biodiversity assessments and raise awareness about the benefits of completing such assessments for businesses. It will also tackle some of the specific challenges identified during the year, notably in terms of:

- Developing a common framework for biodiversity assessment by supporting the development of the NCP Biodiversity Supplement in coordination with the NCC/CCI leading the work on this topic;
- Identifying additional case studies of how different businesses have implemented NCA and biodiversity assessments within their organisation and set up different ambition levels; and
- Engaging discussions with top management and improving the communication about risks and opportunities linked biodiversity and natural capital by providing concrete case studies.

2. The EU B@B Innovation workstream intends to continue to work on the development of an biodiversity / natural capital innovation toolbox in 2018 in close cooperation with the existing initiatives in this area.

3. The 2018 focus of the Community of Practice (EU F@B) activities will continue to be driven by its members the participating financials. A priori the idea is to continue to work on the topics identified in 2017. It will however be important to ensure continuous relevance of the discussions to the financials and identify what concrete deliverables could be produced by the CoP in order to inform their needs for better integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into their investment and risk management decision making.