



BNP PARIBAS

The bank for a changing world

# PERSPECTIVES

Experts' views on the green and social transition

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| on Biodiversity

## Urgently mobilising finance for nature

by **Delfina Lopez Freijido**,  
Co-lead at Finance for Nature at  
IUCN and **Geilan Malet-Bates**,  
Senior Programme Coordinator  
of NbS Finance at IUCN



**The International Union for Conservation of Nature moves forward into finance mobilisation, a growing priority.**

IUCN teams work together to identify and put forward vehicles, instruments and solutions to channel capital at scale for pure nature and nature-based solutions. The latter is coordinated by the new **Nature-based Solutions Management Hub**. Key institutional initiatives to help develop an investible project pipeline include the [Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility](#); the [Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund](#); the [Subnational Climate Fund](#); and the [Nature+ Accelerator](#). Areas being addressed to incubate financial solutions and partnerships include: sovereign debt challenges and financing nature; devising financing instruments to finance early-stage and smaller-scale actions with an ecosystems-thinking approach; and advancing market investments for nature

and nature-based solutions. IUCN has also been contributing to key processes in the finance for nature space (e.g. the TNFD, G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, the Taskforce on Nature Markets).

The integration of biodiversity in financial decision-making has triggered a growing need for data and metrics to measure impact and assess risks and opportunities. The **Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric** makes it possible to identify actions that will yield benefits for threatened species, thereby helping to assess and guide the effective contribution that investments and actions can make to reducing species' extinction risk and biodiversity loss.

Financial institutions can align with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by ramping up the assessment of risks and opportunities that relate to nature and conservation. They should engage with a broader range of stakeholders to unlock opportunities. In addition, they should also link their climate and net-zero commitments with nature and biodiversity impacts, so as to advance investments towards GBF targets and the UN SDGs.

### REVERSING THE EROSION TREND IN NATURE

This June, we celebrate 50 years of World Environment Day. On this occasion, we would like to focus on a vital component of environmental protection and a key priority for BNP Paribas Group: reversing nature loss.

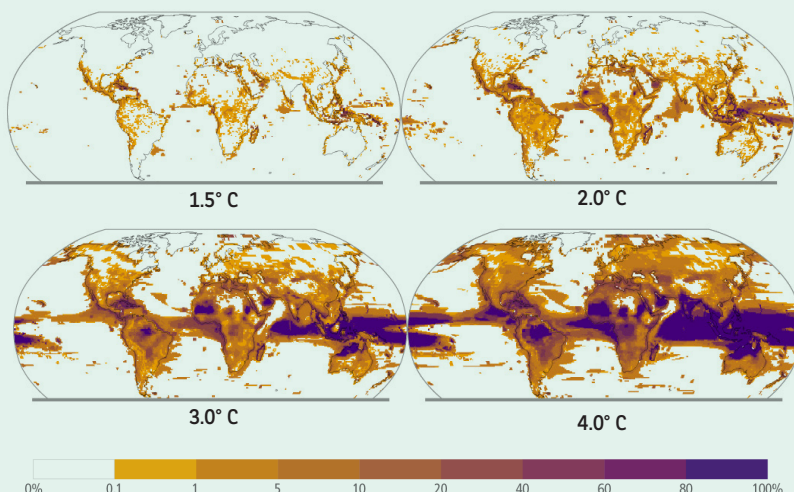
Nature loss is already having far-reaching consequences; however, we have seen encouraging signs of interest in reversing nature loss and related activity from governments, investors and corporates.

- At COP15, some 200 countries agreed on the new [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#).
  - Governments have committed to phasing out subsidies that are harmful to nature, with a target of \$200 billion in spending per year towards conservation.
  - Investors have also come together to focus on engaging companies and policymakers to reverse nature loss by 2030, with the creation of [Nature Action 100](#).
- We know that we cannot do this alone and are grateful to the many individuals and organisations that have partnered with us to date, and those with whom we will partner in the future. Together, we must work to reverse nature loss, and let nature continue to do its important work.

Jane Ambachtsheer,  
Global Head of Sustainability,  
BNP Paribas Asset Management



## Impact of climate change on biodiversity



Source: IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

### 1 What does this IPCC figure show?

It includes the share of animal species (birds, mammals, amphibians, fish, etc.) and seagrasses that could be exposed to critical temperatures for four levels of global warming.

### 2 What can we see?

If global warming were to exceed 2°C, this would expose many species of animal and seagrasses to critical temperatures around the world. Up to 100% could thus be threatened in some places, resulting in the collapse of entire ecosystems.

SCAN OR CLICK ON THIS QR CODE  
TO FIND THE IPCC SYNTHESIS  
REPORT



## What's at stake

# Putting biodiversity back at the heart of our economic priorities

Both nationally and internationally, commitments are bringing together the private sector.

## Private sector now fully supportive of biodiversity challenge

by **Ines Verleye**,  
Senior Biodiversity Expert, PFS Environment (Belgium) & Head of the Belgian Delegation to Biodiversity COPs



**The interest of the private sector in protecting biodiversity has greatly increased in the past few years.**

A key catalyst was [the World Economic Forum's \(WEF\) New Nature Economy Report](#) in 2020. It provided evidence that protecting and restoring natural ecosystems can lead to economic growth and create new business opportunities. The WEF emphasised that businesses rely on natural resources and ecosystem services, and therefore have a responsibility to ensure their sustainability.

As a result, the private sector played an important role before and during the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in December 2022. Their contributions helped establish the landmark Global Biodiversity Framework. A key request from the finance sector – achieved partly thanks to their strong support – was to include the

important provision of aligning financial flows with the framework's objectives.

One of the targets for 2030 agreed at COP15 is the requirement for large and transnational companies and financial institutions to monitor, assess and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity through their operations, supply chains and portfolios. The newly formed Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures will play a key role by delivering a risk management and disclosure framework for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks.

It is also interesting to see the creation of new national organisations in support of the national, European and global targets on biodiversity. One example is the [Belgian Biodiversity Alliance](#) which aims to restore biodiversity and fight against its erosion in Belgium and beyond, in a very concrete way. Initiatives like the Belgian alliance are stimulating the finance sector to develop financial instruments that promote investments benefiting biodiversity.

## How can nature conservation be financed?

by **Katerina Trostmann**,  
Head of Sustainable Finance at BNP Paribas Brazil



**Rapidly declining biodiversity is giving rise to innovative conversations on how to finance nature conservation in Brazil.**

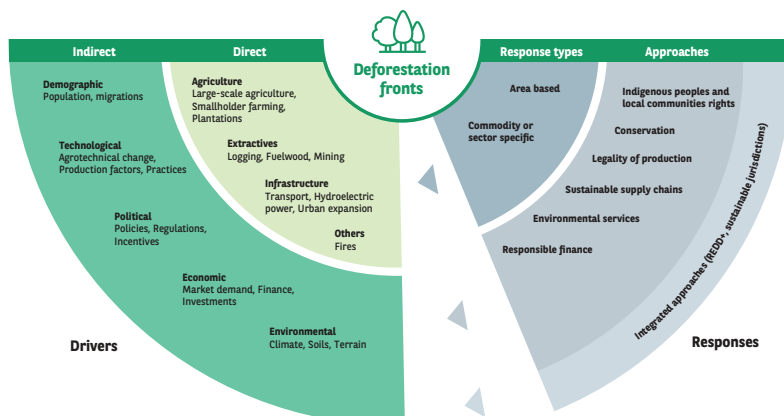
Nature is at the heart of our economic and financial systems, yet it is underfinanced. For a net-zero outcome, annual investments of \$18 to 26 billion in Brazilian nature are needed until 2030. Financial institutions are increasingly aware that to avoid ecologically driven risks, we need to price and finance nature. This includes effective risk management, identifying and scaling up viable business models, and shifting finance away from economic activities that harm nature. So, how are we financing nature in Brazil? This involves linking the interest charges to biodiversity performance indicators and targets. Moreover, BNP Paribas has allocated a €200 million impact investment envelope, €55 million of which is earmarked for financing the conservation and restoration of land and marine ecosystems. Projects are encouraged to transition the supply chain to greater sustainability, such as initiatives that help farmers adopt regenerative agricultural practices.

In the Brazilian Amazon, a new bioeconomy is emerging: innovative ventures are focusing on adding value to forestry products such as nuts, rubber, oils and chocolate, as well as more advanced microcellular technologies. Such initiatives make businesses and governments aware that standing forests offer more value than when cut down. They also provide solutions to our corporate clients, looking to source sustainable raw materials.

These and other financial schemes are vital in order to preserve the unique and valuable biodiversity of this huge area of the planet.

## Deforestation: causes and drivers

Deforestation is a key concern for biodiversity, given that 80% of land species live in forests. As shown by the graphic, there are numerous challenges, ranging from access to raw materials to the protection of indigenous populations.



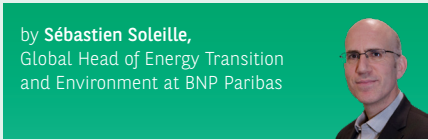
Source: final report by the NGFS-INSPIRE Joint Study Group on Biodiversity and Financial Stability

Regulatory watch

# Biodiversity: regulatory and voluntary frameworks under development

While biodiversity is gradually becoming a financing condition, today's context reminds us that much remains to be done on a regulatory perspective.

## The TNFD will translate biodiversity as a common base for banking's application



by Sébastien Soleille, Global Head of Energy Transition and Environment at BNP Paribas

Publication of a common reference framework on biodiversity is expected in September.

Biodiversity is a highly complex topic. Hence the importance of having a common framework enabling people to speak the same language, to facilitate the traceability of information, to more easily compare companies and to reduce the risk of greenwashing.

To fill this gap, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), a global initiative, was set up. Its goals are to map the interactions between companies and nature; to propose a framework that helps to identify companies' impacts on biodiversity and their dependencies on it; and to manage the associated risks and opportunities. BNP Paribas is one of the 40 members of this working group.

The TNFD was broadly inspired by the success to date of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), while introducing several elements specific to the challenge of biodiversity. For example, the localisation of impacts and relations with local populations, who are the key players in biodiversity.

The TNFD published its latest provisional report last March, with a final report expected next September. This will serve as the basis for the financial sector's commitment. It should also enable financial flows to be shifted to those companies and activities that contribute to protecting and restoring biodiversity.

## Deep-sea mining is today's hot topic



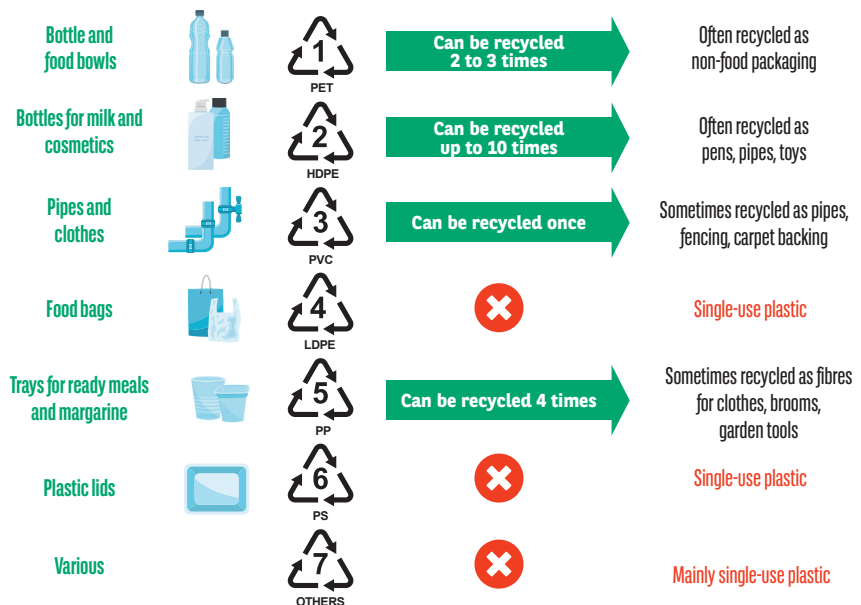
by Yves Floch, ESG Expert Ocean & Power and Jacky Prudhomme, ESG Expert Mining - CSR Group BNP Paribas

The prospect of deep-sea mining raises many questions about its impact on marine biodiversity.

Deep-sea mining (DSM) involves mining metal deposits that lie at the bottom of oceans at depths of more than 2,000 metres. It tops the agenda of many countries that are keen to secure their supply of metals for the energy transition, or benefit from a revenue source. Those in favour of DSM believe the activity will be less harmful in terms of ESG than land mining operations, while suggesting the impact on biodiversity will be minimal. Yet that view is based on a general lack of understanding of deep-sea biodiversity. It also underestimates the impacts of disturbances to the natural environment, on the seabed and in the water column. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is ready to make a decision on whether or not deep-sea mining should take place in international waters. Numerous NGOs have called for a moratorium, in order to give science the time to compile an inventory of deep-sea biodiversity and to model the impacts of DSM. They also state that any such operations would halt the efforts made to promote a circular economy and the recycling of metals. The current debate on authorising DSM in international waters should not, however, hide the fact that countries have sovereignty over their territorial waters and that some of them have already made plans to exploit their mineral reserves below the sea.

### Understanding the European typology of plastic recycling codes

Plastic recycling is composed of several different steps - collection, sorting, washing and reprocessing. This last phase can be mechanical or chemical. In the former case, the plastic is crushed to be used as a raw material with the same properties, although its quality decreases with each recycling cycle. In the latter case, reactions help to break down the plastic at a molecular level in order to create new basic substances (monomers, polymers) or even fuel. These processes are more efficient, but there are many obstacles (cost, energy consumption, environmental impact).



Source: Sustainability Unlocked

## Industries in depth

# Rethinking all sectors by integrating the protection of natural ecosystems

Use of resources, urban planning, recycling and the protection of nature are directly or indirectly key to all business sectors.

## Biodiversity, a challenge for real estate in cities

by Catherine Papillon,  
Global Head of Sustainability/CSR at BNP Paribas Real Estate and Veronique Dham,  
CEO & Founder of Biodiv'Corp



**There are solutions to integrate biodiversity into new buildings construction, in order to strengthen green and blue corridors.**

Nobody can dispute that including biodiversity in urban areas is beneficial. Adding more plants and trees to cities is a way to reduce heat islands and to boost water retention, as well as to encourage CO<sub>2</sub> capture and limit the risks of flooding. This also meets people's need for contact with nature, which is a source of well-being and social cohesion.

Since 2018, BNP Paribas Real Estate has taken biodiversity into account in buildings

that are designed, renovated, managed or occupied. One of the main causes of biodiversity loss is a fragmentation of green corridors. Terrestrial corridors are also called green corridors, while aquatic corridors are known as blue corridors. So, the goal is to integrate buildings as effectively as possible into these natural areas by passing through networks of green spaces and bodies of water, thus forming green and blue corridors in our environment. Practically speaking, this calls for the integration of nature in projects, such as by adding plants to certain roofs or facades. These plants act as a shelter for various species of birds and insects, which will be able to find some places to rest, feed

**"THE GOAL IS TO INTEGRATE BUILDINGS AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE INTO THESE NATURAL AREAS BY PASSING THROUGH NETWORKS OF GREEN SPACES AND BODIES OF WATER, THUS FORMING GREEN AND BLUE CORRIDORS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT."**

and reproduce. As the number of these facilities increases, so does their contribution to urban biodiversity. A project like Métal 57, the new headquarters of BNP Paribas Real Estate in Paris, France, clearly illustrates how buildings can be designed to boost biodiversity locally, and here most notably by setting up an orchard, vegetable gardens and a shelter zone for fauna and flora on the 3,500 sq metres of roofing.

The cost of integrating biodiversity in new buildings is not necessarily excessive. So, it is mainly a question of willpower, aimed at bringing numerous human and environmental advantages.

## Balancing respectful use of nature and protecting biodiversity

by Elisabeth Hipeau,  
ESG Expert – Biodiversity & Natural Capital Manager, CSR Group  
BNP Paribas



**The work of mining and quarrying industries must take into account their impact on biodiversity.**

In 2020, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services identified land use change and resource overexploitation as two of the top five pressures on biodiversity. The World Economic Forum ranked the extractive industries among the three socio-economic systems of greatest danger to threatened species. So, the practices of companies operating in this field must evolve. Today some standards are

emerging, such as the 10 principles of the International Council on Mining and Metals, which notably aim to create a ban on developing certain listed sites.

Europe has a headstart on the decisions taken last December at the COP15 in Montreal, thanks especially to the setting up of the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which seeks to protect 30% of land and sea areas. However, the energy crisis has encouraged some countries to reopen old mines, and even to exploit new ones.

**"MINING AND QUARRYING COMPANIES MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE CHALLENGES OF BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY, WHEN THEY DEVELOP AND EXPLOIT SUCH NEW SEAMS."**

Public opposition to these mines is strong, one example being that generated by the lithium seam in Tréguennec (Brittany, France), even though it is the largest estimated deposit of this metal used intensively in our society's electrification.

Consequently, mining and quarrying companies must take into consideration the challenges of biodiversity and sustainability, when they develop and exploit such new seams.



## Let's stop financing our way into extinction

by Andrew W. Mitchell,  
Founder & Senior Adviser Global  
Canopy



**Financial institutions have to stop contributing to the destruction of biodiversity and shift their support for a global climate- and nature-positive economy.**

📌 **Global Canopy** - a data-driven not-for-profit - seeks to change this situation by targeting the market forces destroying nature. Working with partners around the world, it identifies and makes accessible the data needed to transition away from this destructive status quo.

For example, in the area of **nature-related finance**, Global Canopy is enabling investors, lenders, insurers, financial regulators and others in the sector to identify and mitigate their impacts and dependencies on nature - and to seize the opportunity of investing in nature-positive solutions. Its work on nature-related finance centres on three collaborative flagship projects:

- The 📌 **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** (TNFD): Global Canopy was one of the four founding partners behind the TNFD. This global initiative delivers a framework for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, in order to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes.
- 📌 **ENCORE**: This unique tool maps the impacts and dependencies of different economic sectors on nature, enabling financial institutions to identify and assess the nature-based risks to the businesses in their portfolios. ENCORE takes a global approach to a wide and growing range of nature impacts and dependencies, including deforestation and biodiversity loss.
- 📌 **The Little Book of Investing in Nature** provides an overview of biodiversity finance opportunities. It features more than 40 mechanisms and 25 case studies illustrating how governments, banks and NGOs are driving transformation, reflecting the recent growth in the technical expertise and energy being directed towards efforts to value nature appropriately and pay for its conservation.

## The textile industry faces tough challenges on its environmental impact

by Chetna Prajapati, PhD FHEA,  
Lecturer in Textiles at Loughborough  
University, UK



**Many companies in the textile industry are deeply involved in research and actual projects to implement the energy transition, adopt circular models, and embed the protection of biodiversity in their processes and textiles.**

The textile industry is keen to get to a stage where the protection of biodiversity is designed into garments and the manufacturing process from the outset. Here are three areas of innovation:

**1. Reduce synthetic microfibre pollution** to protect aquatic species by:

- Using **eco-friendly/sustainable fibres** such as organic cotton, hemp and 📌 **responsibly sourced wool**.
- **Implementing filtration systems** in manufacturing facilities to capture and recycle synthetic textile microfibres before they enter wastewater and eventually oceans.
- Advising consumers to **use washing bags** to reduce synthetic textile microfibre shedding during washing.

**2. Diversify the types of material used to make textiles** and move away from petroleum-based fibres. **Mycelium leather** is a sustainable alternative to traditional leather and PVC. Made by growing fungal mycelium on agricultural waste, it can replace leather-made garments. By adjusting the processing techniques, mycelium can be transformed into a **suede-like material** suitable for clothing and upholstery.

**3. Adopt efficient methods of textile colouration** by:

- Using 📌 **CO<sub>2</sub> waterless technology**. It uses synthetic dyes but involves no process chemicals, no water and therefore no wastewater.
- **Encouraging digital printing**, which involves printing designs directly onto the fabric using inkjet printers, eliminating the need for dyeing altogether and resulting in less waste and reduced water consumption.

The textile industry will continue to focus on improving the efficiency and sustainability of existing textile design and finishing methods. The planet's biodiversity is likely to be just one of the beneficiaries.

## Innovation watch

# New technologies aiding biodiversity

Innovations can make a real difference, whether by providing a detailed evaluation of a site's biodiversity or by boosting an ecosystem's regeneration.

## Innovation drives responsible agriculture

by **Edward Lees**,  
Co-CIO Environmental Strategies Group  
at BNP Paribas Asset Management



**New technologies have significant potential to revolutionise agriculture and improve biodiversity.**

Key financing support for these technologies could be provided by the **Ecosystem Restoration Fund**. It focuses on companies whose activities are aligned with environmental solutions, particularly in regard to water, food, pollution, biodiversity and recycling.

**Precision fermentation** can help replace animal products such as leather, and is already commercially producing vegan egg whites without the use of chickens.

**Cellular agriculture** has enormous potential to reduce our consumption of animals if the price of growing cloned cells in laboratories can be reduced. If this succeeds with beef, it could reduce the size of animal herds and the land and crops needed to rear them. Lab-grown bluefin tuna could reduce ocean trawling and associated bycatch.

**Indoor agriculture** could potentially grow crops at up to 30 times the yield with no pesticides or fertilisers. This would encourage biodiversity by reducing harmful run-off. It also offers resilience as the controlled environment means that crops are not as exposed to changing weather patterns and drought, which can have a deep impact on harvests.

**Pollinator-safe RNA pesticides** target specific organisms instead of carpet-bombing a field with poison, which can kill many beneficials such as bees and soil microbes. They are also safe for humans, eliminating concerns about residue toxins on our food.

**Alternative dairy is booming.** Oat milk for example has a much lower carbon and water footprint than dairy, soy or almond milk. It can help us reduce our dairy cow herds, which will cut carbon emissions and open up grazing land for wildlife-friendly uses.

## Improving and accelerating the regeneration of marine biodiversity

by **Sergio Rossi**, Biology &  
Scientific Director at UGI and  
**Marc García-Duran**, CEO and  
Founder at UGI



**'Underwater gardens' are being created to respond, in an intelligent and integrated way, to the specific biological needs of a damaged ecosystem, allowing marine life to regenerate and local biodiversity to increase.**

Underwater Gardens International (UGI) has pioneered an innovative solution that enables science-based marine regeneration not only to thrive, but also to adapt to and mitigate climate change in the ocean. At the same time it promotes local socio-economic growth. To enhance the ecosystem functionality of sea forests (sea-grasses, coral reefs, gorgonian gardens,

etc.), UGI applies the latest methods of underwater silviculture. This avoids monocultures, improves local biodiversity, increases marine biomass, and mitigates the environmental impact of human activity by facilitating permanent carbon immobilisation. At the same time, this way of working is making nature profitable through the transformation of mature marine tourist destinations through its regenerative parks. Therefore, tourism becomes a force for good, while engaging visitors with citizen science. In order to keep supporting UGI's research on biodiversity protection, BNP Paribas has entered into a three-year partnership with the Spanish startup. The first park is being developed as a strategic, structural and urgent project on the island of Tenerife. With a global reach-out, the project has been recognised as a UN Ocean Decade Project, as well as a priority initiative for the European Commission.

## Environmental DNA analysis provides comprehensive and scalable data and insights

by **Kat Bruce**,  
Founder of NatureMetrics



**eDNA is revolutionising biodiversity monitoring and helping businesses and organisations make better decisions for nature.**

Environmental DNA (eDNA) focuses on tiny traces of genetic material that organisms deposit in the environment through normal biological processes.

NatureMetrics has devised a simple way for anyone in the field to easily collect eDNA from samples of water, sediment and soil. These samples are then processed by **NatureMetrics** in their lab, where the eDNA is cross-checked with genetic databases to determine the suite of species present in the samples.

In 2020, thanks to this technology, the conservation charity Fauna & Flora International (FFI) was able to discover the presence of the pygmy hippo – an extremely rare species – in southeast Liberia. This rarity is partly due to the challenge of identifying them. As these animals are nocturnal and do not live in herds, they can be very difficult and expensive to detect with traditional methods such as camera traps or looking for signs.

eDNA sampling of just 20 water samples enabled FFI to gather data on the whereabouts of the pygmy hippo quickly and cheaply, and take the relevant protection measures.

eDNA analysis thus gives a vital window into risks, opportunities and changes at site level. It is this insight that is fundamental for businesses and organisations to understand, report and improve their impact on nature.

# Finding a balance between agriculture and nature

Ranging from new agriculture solution to the protection of species in the urban environment, there are many practical applications for ecosystem protection.

## Traditional agriculture and biodiversity: an unnatural marriage?

by **Anthony Bugeat**,  
Président Directeur Général  
d'AXIOMA



**Offering solutions to limit conventional farming's impact on biodiversity.**

AXIOMA is a company that designs and develops biostimulation solutions for agricultural crops. By combining natural active ingredients, AXIOMA can boost crops facing climate hazards such as heat and drought,

which can be responsible for up to 50% yield losses. They are also developing new biocontrol solutions aimed at limiting the use of certain inputs that have a strong negative impact on the environment such as pesticides, herbicides and insecticides.

Furthermore, the company focuses particularly on the quality of their raw materials. The plant extracts are from rational and certified samples that are used for organic farming, so as to guarantee the protection of natural environments. The products are

therefore offered under different labels, such as SolarImpulse, for their positive impact on protecting the environment.

For example, their biostimulant aimed at producers of cereals is produced by mixing together plants such as camomile, which has biostimulant effects; and arnica, which has antioxidant effects. This cocktail contributes to optimising the plant's physiology (better rooting, stimulation of photosynthesis), enhancing its stress tolerance and reducing the need for fertilisers.

## Impact startups helping nature

by **Hendrik Van Asbroeck**,  
Partner at Astanor Ventures



**Astanor Ventures is a fund focusing on impactful startups in the food and agri-tech space.**

Driven by the pressing need to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss, and improve the health of people, Astanor seeks to find, support and scale the most disruptive, impactful solutions that are shaping the food system of tomorrow. Here are just three of the many projects we are currently supporting that are directly improving biodiversity:

- **Aphea.Bio** develops new and superior agricultural biologicals. By focusing on microbial strains that improve plant nutrient uptake (biostimulants) and strains that protect against disease (biocontrol), the company provides farmers with sustainable solutions to reduce fertiliser and pesticide use.
- **Monarch Tractor** is a fully electric, autonomous and compact tractor that is relatively light and consequently does not overcompress soil, which improves soil biodiversity. Cameras mounted on its sides can be used to identify plant diseases at an early stage and reduce the use of herbicides. A low total cost of ownership means it is more cost-effective to cut weeds with a Monarch than to spray herbicide.
- **Notpla** makes a biodegradable seaweed-based packaging that can replace single-use plastics in a variety of formats. It is created from brown seaweed, which does not compete with food crops for resources; does not rely on fresh water or fertiliser to grow; actively contributes to deacidifying the oceans; and naturally captures CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Innovative application measures the presence of protected animal species

by **Julija Luzan**,  
Director of Corporate Coverage  
BNP Paribas CIB Netherlands



**Dutch telecommunications company KPN has joined forces with consulting company Arcadis to develop a new service that monitors protected animal species via the Internet of Things.**

Due to the energy transition, approximately 1.5 million rental homes in the Netherlands must be renovated by 2030. That is only possible on one condition – protected animal species such as bats, swifts and house sparrows must be given somewhere to live after a home renovation or rebuild. Protection, of course, starts with monitoring.

The result of the cooperation between KPN and Arcadis is the 'fauna sensor'. Sensors placed in bird and bat nesting boxes monitor all animal movement 24 hours a day. The sensors are connected to KPN's nationwide long-range, low-power (LoRa) IoT network. All data can be read online via a specially developed dashboard. This innovation makes it possible to accelerate construction and renovation plans while ensuring that the established animal species are protected.

The fauna sensor was picked up by national media and gained considerable coverage. To date, it has been used in several projects throughout the Netherlands, and there is interest in using it in other European countries. It is a fantastic example of a worthwhile, commercially viable innovation that supplements the company's concrete biodiversity targets.

## Flashforward

# The mobilisation of companies gathers pace

One of the main challenges of restoring biodiversity is to measure and reduce companies' impact.

## Driving greater corporate ambition to tackle biodiversity loss

by **Adam Kanzer**,  
Head of Stewardship -  
Americas at BNP Paribas  
Asset Management



**Nature Action 100 is a global investor engagement initiative that aims to engage corporates to take action to reduce nature loss and the decline of biodiversity.**

With mounting evidence of the crucial role of natural ecosystems in sustaining business operations and livelihoods, the need for global financial markets and agricultural and industrial firms to address nature loss is urgent. The [Nature Action 100](#) initiative was conceived by a group of 11 institutional investors, including BNPP Asset Management. The aim is to engage companies in key sectors that are deemed to be systemically important in reversing nature and biodiversity loss by 2030. Investors will work to ensure these companies are taking timely and necessary actions to protect and restore nature and ecosystems. The initial focus will be on companies in key sectors with the largest impacts and dependencies on nature. Specifically, the initiative will:

- Map sector pathways and identify a list of 100 focus companies for investor engagement.
- Support engagements between investor teams and focus company executives and board members around initiative priorities.
- Identify corporate actions that need to be undertaken to protect and restore nature.
- Track the progress of focus companies against key indicators and provide annual progress updates.
- Support investor and corporate advocacy efforts with relevant policy-makers on nature-focused policies.

## The biodiversity footprint will become an allocation tool

by **Robert-Alexandre Pujade**,  
ESG Analyst & Biodiversity Lead at  
BNP Paribas Asset Management



**Biodiversity impact assessments are expected to expand and be integrated into the investment process.**

The use of biodiversity-related data in ESG analysis still presents many challenges. Above all, it is still hard to find reliable data on the dependencies and impacts of a company's entire value chain.

Mapping a company's impact on biodiversity could be likened to playing with Russian nested dolls. Because you will find pieces within pieces, making it difficult to establish a cause-and-effect link between a company's business and its impact. This is especially true for companies whose impact on biodiversity occurs mainly very early in the value chain.

It is why we have forged a partnership with [Iceberg Data Lab](#), which uses published data and estimations to calculate the biodiversity footprint of thousands of companies. We are now looking at how to integrate this data into the ESG rating of portfolio companies, to allow investors to target their capital to more environmentally friendly companies. The asset management company, meanwhile, can use such data to calculate its biodiversity footprint (reporting required by law in France) and launch special products related to this topic.

## Integrating the impact of carbon credits on biodiversity

by **Guillaume Poupy**,  
Expert ESG Group - Energy  
Transition and Climate CSR Group  
BNP Paribas



Greenhouse gas emissions must be drastically reduced, but this alone will not be sufficient to achieve carbon neutrality. Carbon in the atmosphere must therefore be captured. Nature-based solutions in the form of projects for afforestation or reforestation offer the greatest potential.

Such projects, financed partly by the sale of carbon credits to companies that are committed to carbon neutrality, inevitably have an impact on natural ecosystems. This impact can be positive, through the protection or regeneration of natural spaces. Or, it can be negative, one example being a single-species forest plantation with little biodiversity.

Quite obviously, tackling climate change should not come at the expense of

biodiversity. BNP Paribas has therefore underlined, in its recent position on voluntary carbon credits, that it will not call on carbon credits that have a significant negative impact on biodiversity.

SCAN OR CLICK ON THIS QR CODE  
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VOLUNTARY CARBON CREDITS



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