



Proteus Mid-Phase Report

Recognising the Impact of the Proteus Partnership
2021-2023

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

proteus

Foreword

The Proteus 2021-2025 strategy marks an ambitious phase of the Proteus Partnership, enabling action towards a responsible energy transition, business action across landscapes and value chains, and a nature-positive future.

The imperative for business action on nature has never been stronger. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has laid out an ambitious plan to bring about a transformation in society's relationship with biodiversity by 2030. Meanwhile serious momentum is building within the business and financial community, with significant efforts underway to enable robust disclosures of impacts and dependencies (supported by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)) and the setting of science-based targets for nature (supported by the Science Based Target Network (SBTN)).

For the last 20 years, Proteus has supported leading companies to address their relationship with biodiversity. It has supported better biodiversity data, helped companies access this data in the context of their own operations, brought companies together to engage with others and supported their capacity for change.

The 2021-2025 Proteus strategy builds on this success and further accelerates ambition and action towards a nature-positive future. To date, the Proteus Partnership has worked with 17 multinational businesses and welcomed new companies and sectors into the Partnership, while continuing to invest in better biodiversity data, tools and knowledge. In the past three years, the Proteus Partnership has supported companies to recognise their responsibilities for nature through targeted communication materials, trainings and technical support. It has enabled significant advances in accelerating and scaling decision support tools and spatial biodiversity data that can be used by companies to address their impacts and dependencies. Proteus has also helped Partners to understand and navigate evolving global policy agendas on nature and to understand emerging implications for businesses. Finally, we have sustained a beneficial partnership that enables peer-learning and collaboration across sectors.



Stacey Baggaley,
Principal Specialist: Nature and Business,
UNEP-WCMC

20 Years of Proteus Timeline

2001-2002

The idea of the Proteus Partnership was conceived by UNEP-WCMC.

2003-2007

Proteus launched with 4 businesses, expanding to 8 partners by the end of the phase.

This initial phase was focused on building and improving data infrastructure and delivery of data to the private sector, particularly the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

2008-2012

Proteus supported significant improvements to the accuracy and completeness of the WDPA. Further improvements to availability of data for companies was enabled through the launch of the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool. Updates to coastal and inshore marine ecosystems data was also achieved in this phase.

2013-2015

Focus on continued improvements to biodiversity data and development of integrated knowledge products. Supporting the Proteus Partners through tailored technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing to enhance biodiversity management approaches and use of global spatial biodiversity data.

2016-2020

Proteus worked with 14 leading businesses, supporting them to adopt effective biodiversity impact mitigation approaches, through technical assistance training and knowledge sharing. Continued improvements made to global biodiversity data and launch of new knowledge products including the Global Critical Habitat Screening Layer and Biodiversity Indicators for Site-based Impacts (BISI) methodology.

2021-2025

In this current phase of Proteus, we are expanding to new businesses and sectors supporting them to contribute to global goals and manage their impacts and dependencies on nature. Proteus is convening cross-sectorally to advance peer learning and knowledge sharing. Focused on continued improvements to biodiversity knowledge and the integration of data and tools into company biodiversity management practices.

The Proteus World View

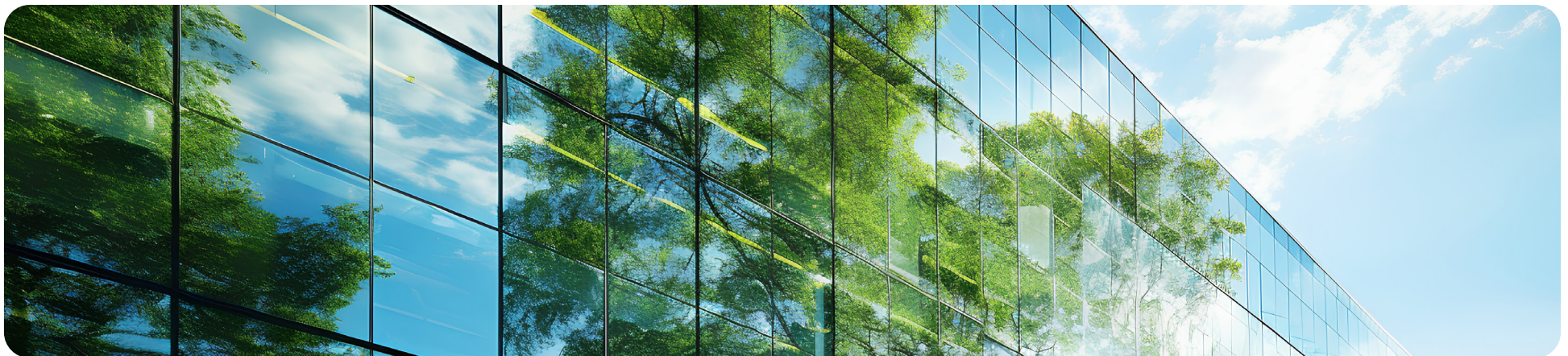
Biodiversity is in decline. Human activities place stress on our natural systems and impact their ability to provide essential functions and services that our societies and businesses depend on. The World Economic Forum estimates that over half of global GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature. A failure to address these challenges creates material risk for businesses. It can affect: resilience of business operations; access to finance and insurance; effective delivery of projects; and corporate reputation. Action on biodiversity is a genuine differentiator in business performance. Businesses are increasingly aware of the opportunities to address their impacts and dependencies on nature. Businesses are looking to create new value by integrating nature into strategies and transitioning business models to align with global goals for nature.

The Proteus Partnership supports companies to transition towards a nature positive future. Proteus fosters innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration to enable all Partners to

incorporate biodiversity into their site- and corporate-level decision making. Recognising the need to engage actors from across multiple high-impact sectors Proteus works with companies from the energy & renewables, extractives, infrastructure and land-use sectors.

Proteus empowers companies to be proactive in their biodiversity management. It gives them the understanding and information they need to identify biodiversity issues at an early screening stage and helps to structure responsible environmental management within operations, project lifecycle and across value chains.

Proteus provides data, tools and capacity building to support implementation of measurement, reporting and disclosure frameworks, underpinning business action to create credible positive change for nature. Proteus allows companies to manage their global footprint on nature while supporting the work of international conservation organisations in the improvement and dissemination of global biodiversity data.



Proteus Strategy 2021-25

Vision

A planet where business contributes to a clean, healthy, resilient environment for all.

This vision will not be achieved through Proteus alone. We recognise that Proteus is one part of a global push for transformative change. This vision represents the future to which Proteus aspires to contribute.

Mission

Support companies to contribute to a nature-positive future.

The mission of Proteus will be achieved through clear goals, underpinned by annual work plans and deliverables. These goals recognise the imperative for sustainable development pathways and will be achieved not only through direct benefits to partners but through the wider outcomes of the Partnership. The results and impact of investment in Proteus are also delivered to governments and civil society in tackling the challenge of biodiversity loss.

Goals



1. Help companies recognize their responsibilities for nature and communicate the business case for its management.

Proteus will secure buy-in and commitment within partner companies to change the way they manage their relationship with biodiversity.



2. Accelerate and scale decision support tools and capacity building to help improve corporate performance.

Proteus will help companies address biodiversity-related risks, and to understand and manage their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity.



3. Strengthen and increase business engagement in the global policy agenda on nature.

Proteus will help build shared understanding and alignment of objectives between global biodiversity policy at government and at private sector level. It will help facilitate implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.



4. Sustain a viable mutually beneficial partnership through cross-sectoral collaboration.

Proteus will expand to new sectors to deliver sufficient resources for a lasting, sustainable and overwhelmingly positive impact for biodiversity conservation and corporate decision making.

Building business capacity for action: Training

Building internal capacity in businesses for addressing nature-related responsibilities is key to deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity. Partners can rely on UNEP-WCMC's expertise to develop and deliver personalized trainings.

In this phase so far, Proteus delivered trainings that:

- *Build organisational capacity on biodiversity and nature, such as the fundamentals of biodiversity, the value that nature creates to business, biodiversity management practices, and how businesses should think about their value chains.*
- *Build technical capacity concerning a particular dataset, tool or approach, such as IBAT, STAR, Nature-based Solutions and No Net Loss or Biodiversity Net Gain approaches.*

From 2021 to 2023 Proteus has:

68

Delivered on 68
impactful training
sessions

1450

Reached over 1,450
employees across 17
Partners

Building business capacity for action: Technical support

Proteus leverages UNEP-WCMC's network of internal biodiversity experts and scientific collaborators to provide direct technical support to Partners. This helps them operationalise action for nature across their businesses.

In this phase so far, Proteus has supported Partner companies to:

- *Strengthen policies, strategies and technical methodologies, on nature-positive, net positive impact, and natural capital accounting.*
- *Integrate the best biodiversity data into decision processes, including risk screening, opportunity identification, and impact & dependency assessments.*
- *Develop compelling communication materials to engage key areas of the business around nature.*

From 2021 to 2023 Proteus has:

17

Provided bespoke technical assistance to 17 diverse companies

1000

Delivered over 1000 hours of direct technical support

>200

Resolved >200 technical queries on biodiversity datasets and tools

Peer-to-Peer Learning and Collaboration

Proteus convenes a group of cross-sectoral businesses that aim to be leaders in managing biodiversity across the corporate to site levels.

- *It provides a pre-competitive environment to learn from each other.*
- *We promote sharing of examples, experiences, successes, and failures around all aspects of biodiversity management.*
- *We create space to explore case studies in detail.*
- *We bring together diverse experts across the business, scientific, and conservation communities to share knowledge and build solutions.*

Examples of how we have promoted collaboration include:

- *Annual partnership meetings, with member-only sessions for sharing among peers and open sessions for engaging with other expert organisations (see story 2).*
- *Regular 'Data Forum' discussions covering the latest developments, challenges, and solutions around biodiversity datasets (see story 1).*
- *Regular 'Horizon Scanning' webinars where speakers share insights on upcoming biodiversity trends, topics, & initiatives.*
- *Creating direct connections between companies experiencing similar challenges.*

Proteus Stories

Data Forum on company internal biodiversity screening tools (Oct 2021)

In this 1hr session three Proteus Partner companies shared detailed insights into the internal GIS tools they use for screening for biodiversity-related risks. We discussed what data is used and why, the internal processes and procedures used to analyse this data, how it influences decisions, and how it fits into wider company workflows.

Following the presentations, we discussed as a group how approaches compare between companies, and identified best practices for all to take into their internal approaches.

The Proteus Annual Meeting

The flagship Proteus Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to look forward and accelerate business action on nature. The Proteus Annual Meeting provides a space for Proteus Partners, other businesses and the conservation community to come together with experts to share learnings and discuss the role of business in supporting the global agenda on nature and enabling benefits for nature, climate and people.



Improvements to biodiversity data

Proteus continues to invest in increasing the quality and accessibility of global-scale biodiversity datasets and tools, so company decisions can be underpinned by accurate and detailed evidence and knowledge.

In this phase we have been taking a six-pronged approach to improving biodiversity data, which involves:

- *Maintaining and improving existing authoritative biodiversity datasets and tools.*
- *Investing in new, innovative, and emerging datasets that meet the needs of companies.*
- *Synthesising dispersed data into consistent and user-focused global layers.*
- *Working with third party data producers to align with private sector needs and reach users in companies.*
- *Building data infrastructure to support accessibility, interoperability, and interpretation.*
- *Supporting Partner companies to share their own data for public good.*

Proteus will:

Continue to develop solutions to enhance the private sector's ability to take action for nature, and pursue innovative models to make more information available to more users. Recognising that delivering the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will require high-quality data to be accessible to all decisions makers, in this phase of Proteus we are laying the groundwork for as much data as possible to be made open access. This is a vital step towards enabling nature-positive transformation across all sectors of our global economy.

As well as developing and providing data, we work with companies directly to build capacity to extract meaning from it, ensuring that better data leads to better decisions.

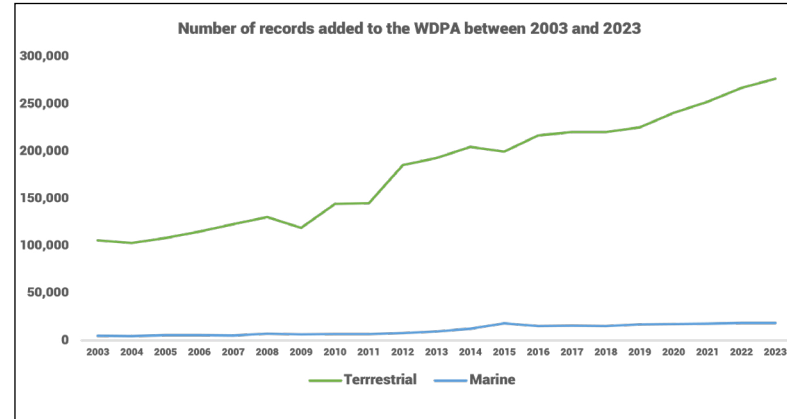
Protected Planet:

What is Protected Planet and why is it important?

Protected Planet is the comprehensive source of data on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), updated monthly with submissions from governments, NGOs, landowners and communities. Protected Planet provides partners with monthly updates on protected areas through the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures through the World Database on OECMs (WD-OECMs).

The Impact of Protected Planet

Each year the Protected Planet team engages 248 countries and territories, working with in-country authorities to secure new and updated data. Between 2021 and 2023 there was a net increase of 36,842 records in the WDPA, with 174 countries and territories updated. We continue to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the BIOPAMA programme. UNEP-WCMC closely collaborates and supports Regional Observatories to collate and report data on protected and conserved areas and to facilitate or lead on knowledge sharing and capacity building on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

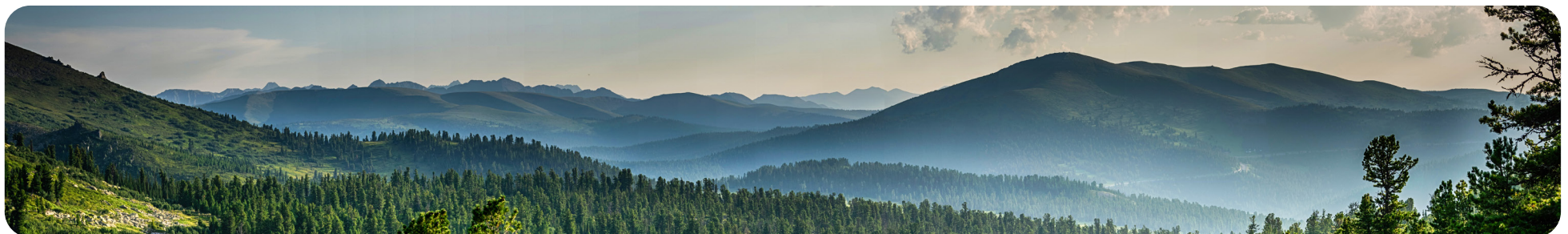


Figure, left - shows the increase of WDPA records over the last 20 years.

Protected Planet for Proteus Partners

The WDPA supports a range of decision-making processes to address impacts on biodiversity. Proteus Partners use the WDPA to screen for areas of particular importance, to help site operations identify biodiversity risks and opportunities, adhere to no-go commitments and support reporting and disclosure needs. Partners have access to the WDPA with the option to seamlessly integrate the data into native systems through our web services.

Proteus Partners have the ability to nominate priority countries for update in the WDPA to help us prioritise efforts to secure changes where impactful decisions are made. Between 2021-2023, 26 partner-nominated countries have received updates in the WDPA.



Ocean+

What is Ocean+ and why is it important?

Ocean+ is an initiative that brings together accurate and up-to-date data on ocean biodiversity. It aims to support effective decisions that protect global marine life.

The Impact of Ocean+

Ocean+ is informing biodiversity targets and indicators to enable marine conservation. It provides data on the distribution and level of protection in diverse ocean habitats. It helps conservationists across sectors understand where protection is needed most and action must be prioritised.

Across 2021-2023 we have been maintaining distribution layers for important marine habitats, such as saltmarshes and mangroves, while investing in updated state-of-the-art maps for seagrasses. We have been connecting scientists with data users in businesses, supporting knowledge dissemination, for example on marine migratory species. Access to ocean data is now more streamlined than ever before, with the

launch of an API helping users across sectors to integrate marine and coastal biodiversity data into their own analysis.

Ocean+ for Proteus Partners

Ocean+ helps to transform dispersed marine biodiversity data into knowledge that can be used by global businesses.

Proteus Partners make regular use of datasets developed under Ocean+, for example in screening for potential biodiversity-related sensitivities and planning offshore infrastructure and energy developments. Ocean+ data forms an established part of internal biodiversity assessment tools and processes for Proteus Partners with operations in the marine realm. It is also seeing increasing interest from traditionally land-based companies, as many look to strengthen understanding of interactions between biodiversity and their extended value chains and global transportation networks. Through Proteus we support Partners to effectively identify, use and interpret the best available marine and coastal biodiversity data in the context of their specific needs.

What Next?

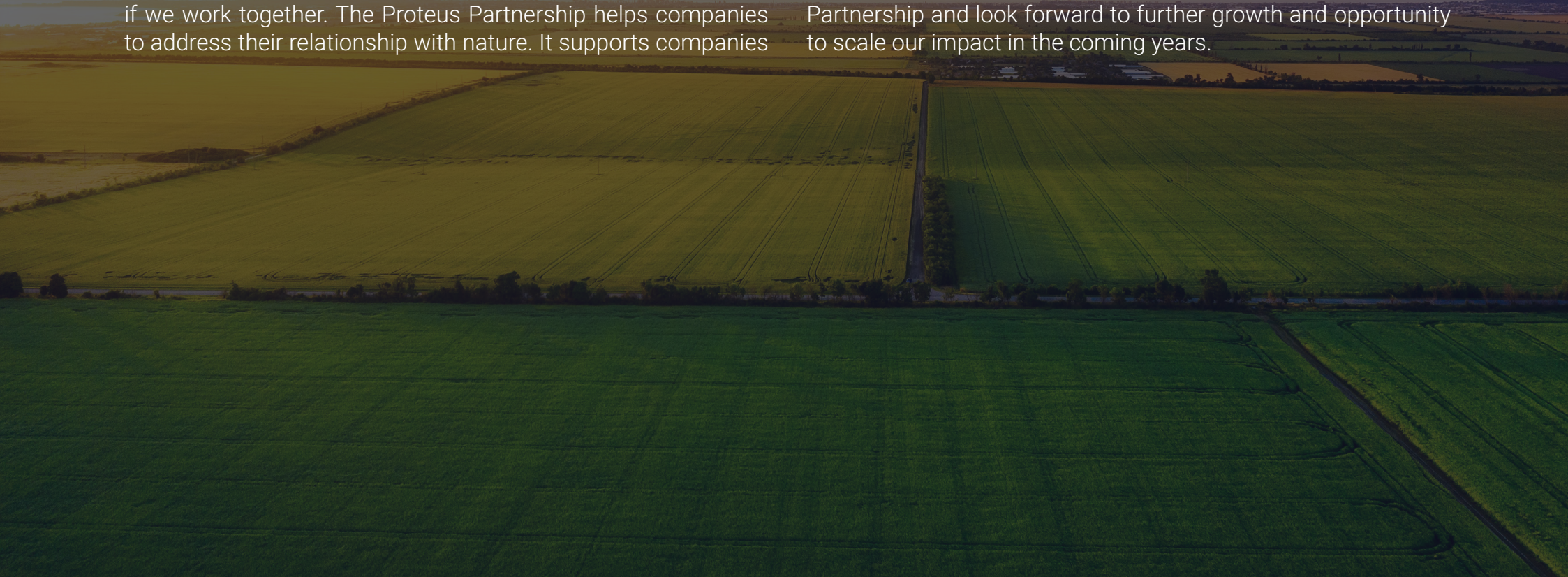
More than ever we need partnerships to address biodiversity challenges and scale solutions that contribute towards a nature-positive future. As global momentum builds in response to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Proteus Partnership is well positioned to support businesses over the remainder of the 2021-2025 phase.

The continued loss of nature poses significant risks to business. Over half of the world's GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature. To address this crisis, businesses need to shift business models and practices and embed the value of nature into decision making. These systemic changes can only succeed if we work together. The Proteus Partnership helps companies to address their relationship with nature. It supports companies

to recognise their responsibilities and increases their capability to address impacts and dependencies on nature.

Over the remainder of the 2021-2025 phase, Proteus will continue to evolve and adapt to the changing landscape and imperative for business action on nature. Proteus fosters innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration to enable all partners to incorporate nature into their decision making, address impacts and dependencies across their value chains and operations, and to respond to emerging target setting and disclosure frameworks.

We are proud of the longstanding success of the Proteus Partnership and look forward to further growth and opportunity to scale our impact in the coming years.



Get in touch

More information on Proteus can be found on the website www.proteuspartners.org

Or sought from the Nature Economy Team at UNEP-WCMC, using the following contact details:

proteus@unep-wcmc.org



UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, UK