

Proteus Annual Report 2020

Supporting companies to be nature-positive

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

proteus

Foreword

The completion of the 2016-2020 phase marks the end of an era for Proteus.

The Proteus Partnership was born from a collective need to raise the bar for biodiversity data and its role in decisions. Increasingly this need is met. Because of Proteus, a move to open and accessible data is within reach.

At the end of 2020, Proteus Partner companies have collectively contributed over £11M to the conservation work of UNEP-WCMC. They have supported a step change in the quality and availability of biodiversity data, including protected areas, marine and coastal habitats, bespoke screening layers aligned with key performance standards, and more. From 2016-2020, 95% of records in the World Database on Protected Areas were updated, the highest level since Proteus began. But Proteus is not only about data, we also focus on making it useful in a business context. And this is all supported by developing capacity within companies, for example delivering bespoke training to over 500 Partner employees.

In 2020, Proteus demonstrated an ability to adapt in the face of ongoing challenges caused by Covid-19 and widespread lockdowns. Workflows and engagements were adjusted and for the first time ever, the Proteus Annual Meeting was hosted virtually. Proteus now stands at an exciting launch point. The strategy for 2021-2025 embraces the need for system-level solutions and transformative change. Diversifying the membership will increase its reach, impact and value to Proteus companies, supporting stronger collaboration, within systems and across landscapes.

The world needs Proteus. And just as Proteus has adapted to global change over the last 5-year phase, it is poised to do the same again. I'm proud of our successes, and look forward to achieving more through Proteus in the future.



Matt Jones,
Head of Programme,
Nature Economy,
UNEP-WCMC

Achievements in 2020

Improving biodiversity data resources

Proteus brought new updates and functionality to global biodiversity data resources in 2020. The data in the World Database on Protected Areas was updated for 153 countries and territories, resulting in a net increase of 12,688 records and increasing the total number of sites to 250,281. New features were added to the Integrated

Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), for example spatial file upload functionality and updated Country Profiles, enabling better incorporation of biodiversity data into company decisions. In addition, new marine and coastal resources were made available such as the state-of-the-art Global Islands Dataset, a global biophysical typology of mangroves

and an updated Global Distribution of Seagrasses layer. Through successful collaborations between Proteus and leading dataset developers new distribution models for migratory species were also released, and Proteus partners can now access data on Important Marine Mammal Areas.

12,688

New records added to the World Database on Protected Areas

250,281

total sites across 153 countries

Achievements in 2020

Improving biodiversity knowledge resources

Proteus also contributed to the expansion of biodiversity knowledge resources in 2020. Three in-depth Technical Briefs were released to support the application and interpretation of biodiversity data by business, tackling Combined Biodiversity and Carbon Management, screening for Natural and Modified Habitat, and Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO). In addition, we held four Data

Forum sessions with technical experts in the Partnership to discuss and learn from each other on how companies can best use biodiversity data. We also shared information and insights into the latest trends and developments in biodiversity science, initiatives and tools through two Horizon Scanning webinars, focusing on the Science-based Targets Network and resilience of ecosystem

restoration efforts to climate change. Furthermore, 2020 saw extensive feedback from users and stakeholders collected to inform future upgrades to the Biodiversity A-Z, reflecting how this tool initially developed under Proteus can be expanded not only to meet Partner needs but also for wider conservation benefit.

3

Technical Briefs

4

Data Forums

2

Horizon Scanning
Webinars

Achievements in 2020

Improving biodiversity measurement and reporting

Finally, 2020 saw UNEP-WCMC and Proteus Partners enhance biodiversity measurement approaches for the private sector through two key initiatives: Biodiversity Indicators for Site-based Impacts and Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business. The former uses an aggregated approach to assess corporate biodiversity performance,

and in 2020 an updated methodology was launched to support companies with significant site-based impacts in implementing biodiversity indicators. The Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business initiative seeks to build consensus on how businesses and financial institutions can measure and report on biodiversity performance,

with partners across more than 20 organisations. In 2020 we launched a review summarising the drivers and current practice around biodiversity measurement, highlighting the need for improvement and suggesting key actions that the private sector can take.



Reach in 2020

13

Companies advised
on their biodiversity
strategies and
commitments

>50

Global biodiversity
datasets available to
the private sector

97

Participants in
Proteus events

76

Data queries
resolved

>350

Hours of technical
support and
training provided

>150

Countries and
territories with
updated protected
areas 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 be nature-positive.

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.

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:

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