

# Proteus Partnership Expansion Plan

Supporting company decision making to be nature positive

## Why expand Proteus?

Biodiversity continues to decline and concerted action over the next decade and beyond is required to halt this trend. To help achieve this, transformative change is required across major socio-economic systems at the landscape scale. As part of these efforts, companies are increasingly expected to: address their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity; set science-based targets for nature and make public commitments on biodiversity; and measure and publicly disclose their biodiversity performance.

Proteus supports companies to make the transition towards nature-positive business models. In particular, the partnership is well positioned to foster 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 sectors to achieve landscape-scale outcomes, Proteus will expand the partnership over the next five years.

## This Expansion Plan outlines how:

- UNEP-WCMC intend to build on the success of Proteus by expanding to other sectors
- Existing partners can help support these efforts
- New partners are key to strengthening the partnership and helping Proteus achieve its goals



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



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



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



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

## Expansion approach

We will build on Proteus' successes and capitalise on the common opportunities and challenges experienced by leading organisations, particularly in the renewables, infrastructure, and agriculture sectors. While these are examples of site-based sectors, we will also look engage with downstream actors through company supply chains. We will seek new partners among companies aligned to Proteus' vision and mission, and those with a demonstrated commitment to enhancing their biodiversity performance. While Proteus will be open to businesses from all sectors, we will take a phased approach to outreach activities for our target sectors.

The renewables and extractives sectors will be priorities from 2021. Proteus already has a compelling offer to assist these sectors to manage biodiversity impacts associated with their anticipated growth as part of the energy transition. Including these sectors in the partnership will create opportunities for peer networking and learning within and between sectors, as well as leveraging additional resources to support the development of new tools and approaches. In turn, this will benefit current partners, particularly those looking to diversify their business models and operations in response to the energy transition.

From here, a sector-driven approach is envisaged with

active expansion to the infrastructure sector from 2022 and agriculture from 2023 onwards. This will allow us to focus the direction of Proteus in a way that builds progressively towards opportunities for peer learning, cross-sector engagement and improved biodiversity performance within landscapes and supply chains.

## Expansion Activities

Efforts will focus on networks and sectors where there are already links to the work of Proteus. UNEP-WCMC will explore connections with other projects and initiatives, including through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), to engage potential new partners. Existing partners are also encouraged to make introductions within their networks.

Proteus will take a three-level approach to expansion activities:

- Direct discussions with potential new partner companies
- Engaging with businesses at industry events
- Making and strengthening wider Proteus relationships through broader conservation events

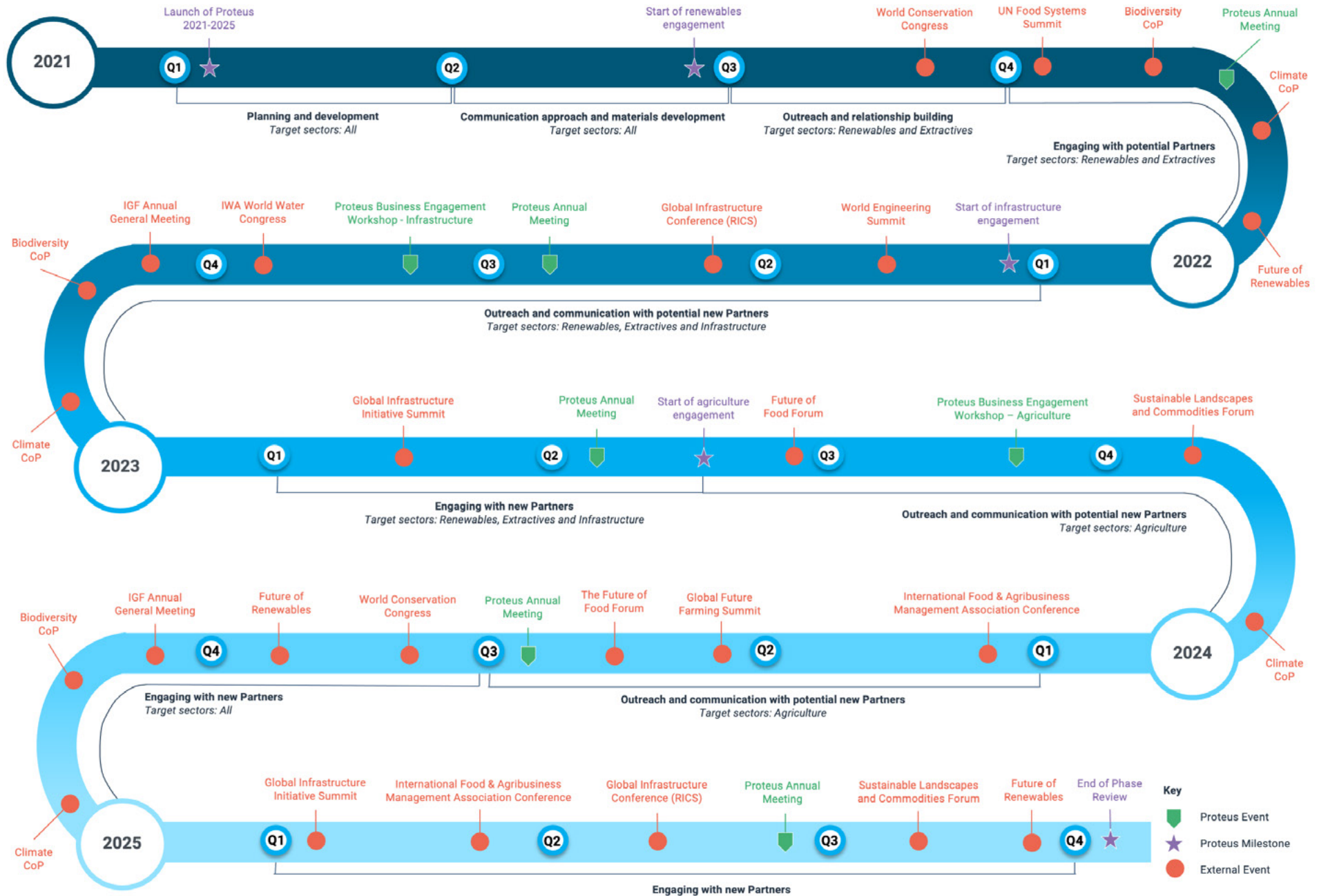
We will make direct contact with a select group of companies that are potential new Proteus Partners. These companies will be leaders in their field, with a demonstrated commitment to improving their, and their sector's, relationship with nature. From 2022, UNEP-WCMC will also host targeted business engagement workshops. Convening representatives from relevant companies will create a forum to explore biodiversity needs and challenges in detail, to position Proteus as a solution that addresses these, and to foster greater collaboration both within and across sectors.

Proteus will also actively engage with businesses more broadly at industry events, as well as through sector specific events relevant to our expansion areas. Participation in these events will help to understand sector needs, develop connections with target companies through networking, speaking opportunities and other activities.

We will continue to raise the profile of Proteus through appropriate platforms at conservation events (e.g. through the Business and Nature Hub at the World Conservation Congress and the UN Conferences of the Parties), to help build and strengthen Proteus' links to a wider network of experts and organisations.

These efforts will be complemented by a communication and marketing plan which will support all three levels of expansion activity to raise the profile and reach of Proteus among target groups. This plan will also include additional outreach activities through direct marketing, social media and additional events (such as launch webinars or observer invitations to the Proteus Annual Meeting). The approach will be reviewed regularly to ensure that we are building momentum and taking advantage of key opportunities as they arise.

An indicative roadmap outlining the proposed expansion activities is presented below



# Renewables and Extractives – Expansion priority from 2021

Renewable power capacity is set to expand by 50% between 2019 and 2024<sup>1</sup> alone, with further growth needed to meet the Paris Agreement climate target. However, there is growing recognition of the biodiversity impacts from renewable operations and associated supply chains, leading to mounting pressure on the sector to manage and disclose them.

Proteus can help to support a just energy transition by building capacity and capability for better corporate biodiversity management in both the near- and long-term.



## What the renewables sector brings to Proteus

Several Proteus Partners are already evolving their business models, diversifying their operations to include renewables, and planning for growth in certain metals and mineral industries. Expansion within the renewables and extractives sectors will bring new insights and lessons learned that support current partners as they adapt in response to the energy transition.

There are also strong supply chain links between the renewables and extractives sectors. Exploring Proteus as a mechanism to support management of biodiversity

across supply chains will be key to future expansion areas. Near-term expansion to the renewables sector offers a unique opportunity to strengthen cross-sector collaboration, explore the integration of supply chain solutions and to embed greater consideration of biodiversity with the renewables sector more broadly.

### Renewables and extractives biodiversity-related challenges

- Siting of operations
- Site-based impacts
- Implementing the mitigation hierarchy
- Indirect, cumulative and supply chain impacts
- Recognising dependencies on nature
- Approaches to no net loss and net gain for biodiversity

## What Proteus offers the renewables sector

**Goal 1:** Supporting long-term business viability of this emerging sector by strengthening company-wide commitment and action on nature.

**Goal 2:** Access to corporate and site-level decision support tools to address impacts (e.g. habitat fragmentation, bird and bat collisions, proximity to protected areas and KBAs) and dependencies (e.g. erosion control and climate regulation) on nature.

**Goal 3:** Increased engagement with the emerging policy landscape, supporting a just transition that recognises the co-benefits of achieving climate and biodiversity goals.

**Goal 4:** Building on common and supply-chain links across the energy and extractives sectors to enable peer-learning and knowledge exchange on best practice approaches.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Illustrative Target Companies</b> | Renewables and extractives companies with a global / multinational operational footprint<br>Companies pursuing projects in the expanding wind and solar markets<br>Mining companies within renewables supply chains                                 |
| <b>Example Links and Networks</b>    | International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)<br>IBAT subscribers<br>International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)<br>IPIECA  |
| <b>Potential Events</b>              | World Conservation Congress (2021)<br>Future of Renewables<br>Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals, and Sustainable Development (IGF) Annual General Meeting<br>Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Annual Meeting |

<sup>1</sup> IEA (2019), Renewables 2019, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewables-2019>

# Infrastructure – Expansion priority from 2022

The infrastructure sector delivers fundamental services, from clean water and food to energy and communication networks. An estimated \$94 trillion of infrastructure spending is needed between 2016 and 2040 to meet growing global needs<sup>2</sup>. Yet infrastructure can have serious negative impacts on the environment, ranging from the carbon footprint of construction materials, to habitat destruction and fragmentation effects.

Proteus is in an excellent position to help the infrastructure sector understand and address the scale and distribution of biodiversity related challenges it faces. This action is increasingly important as large investments are made in the sector to support the green recovery and the energy transition.



## What the infrastructure sector brings to Proteus

Infrastructure is present in almost all geographies (often over large areas) and is key to the operations of businesses in other sectors (including existing Proteus Partners). Many infrastructure companies therefore have experience of the challenges and good

practice associated with managing biodiversity in different contexts – experiences that could be shared with other partners through peer-to-peer dialogue. In turn, supporting infrastructure companies to work towards nature positive approaches could improve biodiversity management at scale and throughout supply chains.

### Infrastructure biodiversity-related challenges

- Fragmentation effects
- Siting of operations
- Indirect, cumulative and supply chain impacts
- Recognising dependencies on nature
- Approaches to no net loss and net gain for biodiversity
- Environmental, Social, and Governance performance
- Nature-based solutions for sustainable infrastructure
- Green recovery

### What Proteus offers the infrastructure sector

**Goal 1:** Help to build the business case for sustainable, resilient infrastructure, including the use of nature-based solutions to achieve multiple benefits

**Goal 2:** Access to global biodiversity information, tools and data to support nature positive decision making for infrastructure, particularly for projects that cut across landscapes and jurisdictions

**Goal 3:** Support to align infrastructure development and management with a green recovery, contribute to multiple global targets and address the infrastructure gap

**Goal 4:** A cross-sectoral and innovative peer network of companies to help the infrastructure sector become part of sustainable, nature inclusive landscapes and supply chains

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Illustrative Target Companies</b> | Infrastructure companies with a global / multinational operational footprint<br>Companies that plan, build and operate their own infrastructure (rather than consultancy companies that provide services to them)<br>Companies operating in similar landscapes or supply chains to other Proteus sectors and Partners |
| <b>Example Links and Networks</b>    | UNEP's Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership<br>IBAT subscribers<br>Development Corridors Partnership  |
| <b>Potential Events</b>              | World Conservation Congress – Infrastructure Pavilion (2021)<br>Proteus: Infrastructure Business Engagement Workshop (2022)<br>Global Infrastructure Initiative Summit<br>International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure  |

<sup>2</sup> Oxford Economics (2017) The Global Infrastructure Outlook. Licensed from the Global Infrastructure Hub Ltd under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia License. To the extent permitted by law, the GI Hub disclaims liability to any person or organisation in respect of anything done, or omitted to be done, in reliance upon information contained in this publication.

# Agriculture – Expansion priority from 2023

The agriculture sector provides food and materials that are fundamental to our survival. Yet land conversion for agriculture has been one of the most significant drivers of biodiversity loss over recent decades<sup>3</sup>. This has led to a decline in the state of natural capital and flow of ecosystem services which, in turn, affects the resilience and productivity of agricultural systems. With ongoing pressures from climate change, unequal economic development and consumer dynamics, the agricultural sector requires a rapid transformat

ion towards nature regeneration and sustainable production and consumption practices.

Over the next phase of the Partnership, Proteus will explore how it can provide benefits that are relevant to the complex supply chains of the agriculture sector.



## What the agricultural sector brings to Proteus

As a sector with one of the largest footprints, engagement with the agricultural sector and its supply chains is key to achieving Proteus' mission of supporting nature positive decision making. Agriculture

also links with other sectors, which can increase cumulative biodiversity impacts in shared landscapes. With experience of working in a wide range of different geographies and contexts, the inclusion of agriculture companies will bring new insights that support the Partnership to scale and explore biodiversity solutions and management across key regions, landscapes and supply chains.

### Agriculture biodiversity-related challenges

- Sustainable sourcing / supply chains
- Landscape scale solutions
- Fragmentation effects
- Indirect and cumulative impacts
- Recognising dependencies on nature
- Declining natural capital and ecosystem services
- Restoration

### What Proteus offers the agricultural sector

**Goal 1:** An innovative hub to explore common challenges and leverage future solutions to build the business case for nature.

**Goal 2:** New data sets focused on supply chain solutions for sustainable agriculture.

**Goal 3:** Advancing action towards global goals through increased engagement with the global policy agenda, including through the UN Food Summit, FAO and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

**Goal 4:** Engaging multiple sectors to achieve landscape-scale and supply-chain outcomes.

### Illustrative Target Companies

Agricultural companies with global / multinational operations  
 Companies that have a direct agricultural footprint or those with diversified operations that include agricultural holdings  
 Companies with agricultural supply chains with a high degree of traceability  
 Those that are looking to explore new tools and approaches to managing impact and risks across supply chains

### Example Links and Networks

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)  
 Trade Hub  
 Private sector initiatives (e.g. The Consumer Goods Forum)  
 Commodity Roundtables  
 Wageningen University & Research  
 Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)

### Potential Events

UN Food Summit (2021)  
 Proteus: Agriculture Business Engagement Workshop (2023/4)  
 Innovation Forum: Food and Landscape Forums

<sup>3</sup> WWF (2020) Living Planet Report 2020 - Bending the curve of biodiversity loss. Almond, R.E.A., Grooten M. and Petersen, T. (Eds). WWF, Gland, Switzerland.