

Meeting Report

Proteus Annual Meeting 2019

Venue

The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

Objectives

- To brief Proteus Partners on key developments in Proteus, strategic priorities and the future work plan and secure member input into them.
- To explore the impact of Proteus and determine, with members, how that impact can be enhanced and the membership of Proteus broadened.
- To highlight and discuss emerging issues and trends in biodiversity conservation, science and policy of strategic relevance to Proteus members.
- To secure member input into UNEP-WCMC's engagement with the extractive sector on priority areas for future work development.
- To secure member input into what the Proteus Partnership will look like in its next phase from 2020.

Take away messages

- The process to develop the post-2020 biodiversity framework within the Biodiversity Convention is more inclusive than past efforts. However, there are short timeframes and a lack of clear mechanisms for the private sector to make substantive direct contributions. While there are opportunities for the private sector to make its voice heard it looks increasingly like their role will be one of implementation rather than design.
- Proteus has contributed significantly to the improvement of data, the creation of tools, and development of capacity in companies during this phase of the Partnership. UNEP-WCMC has also been able to make stronger linkages between Proteus and the wider science/policy agenda. There is an opportunity to build on these linkages during the next phase of Proteus (2012 and beyond) to ensure alignment and complementarity between Proteus, the post-2020 framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Clear trends and themes are emerging around nature-based solutions, links between climate and biodiversity mitigation, and restoration which could be part of the future focus of Proteus.
- There is a strong business case for membership of the Proteus Partnership, and the renewal in 2021 provides an opportunity to explore opening the partnership to new sectors, supporting the sustainable financing of open-access data and addressing key emerging issues.

A summary of feedback from participants is provided in Annex 1.

Day 1 – 13th June 2018

Presentations

Introduction and Proteus Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introductions (Corli Pretorius, Deputy Director, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proteus update: 2018 highlights and financial report (Jonty Knox, Senior Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity, UNEP-WCMC and Sebastian Bekker, Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
UNEP-WCMC's Current Work Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable development (Hilary Allison, Head of Programme, Ecosystem Assessment and Policy Support, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for places: supporting area-based planning and decision-making (Lera Miles, Principal Technical Specialist in Area-based Planning, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the transition to a healthy ocean (Chris McOwen, Lead Marine Scientist, Marine, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing a sustainable future for wildlife (Claire McLardy, Senior Programme Officer, Species, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening natural capital in private sector decision-making (Annelisa Grigg, Principal Specialist, Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
Horizon Scan: Emerging Issues and Trends in Biodiversity Management and Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) project (Daniel Dunn, Duke University) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening capacity for environmental management of the oil and gas sector – An introduction to the Oil for Development Programme (Frank Eklo, Norwegian Environment Agency) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net Gain: Seeking better outcomes for people when mitigating biodiversity losses from development (Julia Jones, Bangor University) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration and the UN Decade (Lera Miles, Principal Technical Specialist, Climate Change and Biodiversity, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Carbon and Biodiversity Management (Sebastian Bekker, Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: progress to date and next steps (Alexander Shestakov, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity) [download]
Partner knowledge exchange
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Environmental Management Index (GEMI) project (Raquel Fernández Casatejada and Isaac Najera Cuenca, Repsol)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornithological monitoring for a wind farm (Magnus Eriksen, Equinor)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglo American Partnership Support Protocol – Framework Overview (Warwick Mostert, Principal Biodiversity, Anglo American)

Supporting Materials

- Agenda [\[download\]](#) and Participant List [\[download\]](#)
- Proteus Annual Report 2018 [\[download\]](#)
- DRAFT Technical Briefing Note on Combined Carbon and Biodiversity Offsets

Proteus Update [\[download\]](#)

2018 Financial Report and 2019 work plan

Total income from Proteus Partners in 2018 was GBP 817,817. Total expenditure was GBP 801,526, which resulted in a carry-forward of approximately GBP 16,000 to 2019. Leverage funds were secured at a ratio of £1:1.1 from other funders. As a result, for every £1 from each individual partner, £24 were invested from other sources. Projected income has increased in 2019 due to a new Partner joining the Partnership. There was a £67,500 contingency due to one outstanding unsigned MOU.

2018 highlights:

Improved protected areas data – Records across 100 countries and territories were updated in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a net increase of 3,894 records. In 2018, 64% of all records were updated or validated. 2018 also saw the launch of [Protected Planet Live Report](#) at COP14 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, encapsulating all new developments in WDPA.

New marine and coastal data – Two new datasets, on tidal flat and mangroves, have been made available to Partners through the [Ocean Data Viewer](#). The Global Distribution of Coral Reef was updated with 943 new records. Over 30 new metadata sheets were produced, describing data already available online. The [Ocean+ Library](#), an evolving collection of over 190 sources of ocean and marine data and information online was launched in 2018 along with [Ocean+ Habitats](#). This brings together the latest information on coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses, with regular updates on datasets and tracking progress towards global goals.

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) 3.0 – In October 2018, [IBAT 3.0](#) was released, incorporating feedback collected from users throughout the year. The current version incorporates new data management tools and functionalities such as the ability to draw polygons and lines, and run new reports.

Advancing Environment Risk Management – November 2018 saw the launch of [ENCORE](#) (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure). This was the result of multiple years of pioneering work on exploring economic sector dependencies on natural capital. A large component of the work was distinguishing datasets that identified: natural capital assets, impact drivers, and drivers of environmental change; all of which are made available through the tool.

Biodiversity Indicators for Extractives – The first phase of this project has been completed and the associated [report](#) published. The methodology is currently being piloted by seven companies. A workshop was held at the IPIECA offices (London) on Monday 10th of June 2019 to discuss lessons learned from the piloting to date. The refined methodology will be published by the end of 2019.

New Briefing notes and resources:

- **Technical Briefing Notes** – Three briefing notes were released in 2018- [Green and Blue Carbon](#), the implications of the [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (COP14) for extractive companies, and [Marine migratory species](#).
- **Technical Community of Practice** – on the [redevelopment of IBAT](#), [Web services and Application Programming Interface](#), [Ocean+](#) and [IBAT 3.0](#).
- **Global Biodiversity Agenda**– Three webinars were held during 2018, on a global review of [Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation](#), Climate change and biodiversity - [Beyond direct impacts](#), and the implications of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP14) for extractive companies the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Proteus Impact

- **Training and Assistance** – In 2018, UNEP-WCMC delivered six training sessions, conducted two technical assistance projects and responded to 35 data verification requests.
- **Impact Survey Results** – The impact survey remains open to secure more member responses. The full results will be presented later in the year. A short survey of Partners attending the Proteus Annual Meeting echoing the

Impact Survey indicated that data provided through the Partnership continues to have impact on decision making.

Proteus Partner feedback on Proteus in 2018/19

- **Communication** – In the 2018 Impact Survey, 85% of Partners indicated that at least 10 staff members in their respective organisations had access to the data available through Proteus.
- **Resources** – Partners requested a one-page document that outlines the benefits available through the Proteus Partnership, including available data, with a links for further information.
- **Training** –The potential for training for multiple Partners was raised to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing. Partners were interested in a series of longer webinars (e.g. 1.5 to 2 hours), but in the short-term would like a reminder of training options.
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020** – It was noted that business was not well integrated at the previous Congress so IUCN are not planning a large scale Business Pavillion in 2020. However a Business Hub is being proposed by UNEP-WCMC, working with IUCN, FFI and the Natural Capital Coalition.
- **2020 Proteus Annual Meeting** –The 2020 Proteus Annual Meeting will be held in Marseille immediately before the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

UNEP-WCMC's Current Work Themes

This session introduced five of UNEP-WCMC's current work themes. The sixth theme on intergovernmental agreements was discussed in detail on Day 2.

Mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable development [\[download\]](#)

In the context of the **agenda 2030 framework** and 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) UNEP-WCMC focuses on three core areas of work: 1) how biodiversity policies and other policies intersect; 2) building capacity in national governments to promote the concept of mainstreaming biodiversity into wider sectoral development planning; 3) developing guidance and tools (e.g. ecosystem accounting and indicators) for mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral decision making.

Project example(s):

- **Earth Observation Data** – A project exploring how earth observation data can support SDG indicators. A policy brief (*View from the Sky: The contribution of Earth Observation to the Sustainable Development Goals and Indicators*) and a report (*Compendium of Earth Observation contributions to the SDG Targets and Indicators*) will be released in September and included in the Proteus Q4 update.
- **Marine and coastal area based planning** – A [project](#) that looks at how marine and coastal area based planning approaches support achievement of SDGs.

Planning for places: supporting area-based planning and decision-making [\[download\]](#)

Area based planning and decision making are helpful for ensuring that management of areas of land and sea can effectively meet multiple objectives. They used in the context of directly for conservation itself, and for mainstreaming conservation objectives into wider planning, including within the private sector. Examples include planning for climate change adaptation, focusing on areas with the lowest risks, highest benefits and lowest costs. In developing countries in particular, building the capacity of decision makers to use tools and data is a major focus.

Project example(s):

- **Landscapes, Wildlife and People** –Aims to identify landscapes with the highest priority for conservation investment, to both protect wildlife and enhance livelihoods.

Supporting the transition to a healthy ocean [\[download\]](#)

The healthy ocean theme is based on a principle that **everybody needs to be able to access an ocean which is healthy, vibrant and diverse, in an equitable way**. More and more data is being collecting from disparate sources, but UNEP-WCMC can bring that information together and is making it available to support decision making.

Project example(s):

- **Building an evidence base** – Project mapping pathways of how impacts manifest, focusing on how land based activities influence the ocean.
- **Informing decisions** – Working with Google and Global Fishing Watch to bring together satellite information to understand what boats are doing, and how they have the potential to interfere with sensitive areas.
- **Stimulating change** – Working with coral reef diving initiatives to educate people about the impacts that they have when they go scuba diving.

Securing a sustainable future for wildlife [\[download\]](#)

This theme aims to address overexploitation - the main threat to species which are already threatened - by supporting global efforts to ensure use of wildlife and timber is sustainable. UNEP-WCMC provide support to the Wildlife Trade Convention (CITES) and carry out analysis of global trends in international wildlife trade, illegal harvesting and trade of timber.

Project example(s):

- **EU Timber Regulations** – The EU have recently implemented timber regulations to try and ensure that timber has not come from unsustainable sources. UNEP-WCMC provides data and information to support this.

Strengthening natural capital in private sector decision-making [\[download\]](#)

The theme focuses on **providing evidence base for companies** about 'why' they should **integrate nature into decision making**. The theme addresses 'how', by helping companies access **tools and data** (e.g. IBAT, Proteus) and developing methodologies to support implementation. **Capacity is built** both within the private sector and among other stakeholders (e.g. regulators, governments), to address impacts on biodiversity. Current work focuses on the energy, mining and finance sectors, and is moving increasingly towards **infrastructure and agriculture**.

Project example(s):

- **Nature-based solutions** – a collaborative project to understand how the private sector is using nature-based solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on infrastructure.
- **ENCORE** – a tool which links economic sectors to their dependence on natural capital assets
- **Oil for Development** – working across 7 countries to support national regulators in strengthening the availability, accessibility and use of data for environmental management of their oil and gas sector.

Questions and Discussion

- **Audience for Mainstreaming Theme** – UNEP-WCMC work on this theme predominately through UN systems due to variation in reporting against the SDGs at the national level. It was noted that some companies focus on SDGs.
- **Building government capacity** – UNEP-WCMC are collaborating to build capacity of environmental regulators through the OfD programme, to support better government and business decision making in relation to biodiversity. A lack of resources within government departments was identified as a key challenge, with secondments to government organizations suggested as a potential way to assist with this.
- **Climate change** – Climate change has repercussions across all sectors and themes. Guidance on answers to common climate change related questions could be useful to Partners.

Horizon Scan: Emerging Issues and Trends in Biodiversity Management and Data

Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) project [\[download\]](#)

Data on marine migratory species are highly sought after, yet accessing these data usually requires local expert knowledge of discrete primary data on a species. Where companies are not aware of the raw data, they are not able to incorporate it into Environmental Impact Assessments. The MiCO project aggregates knowledge on migratory marine species, developing the evidence base to locate key breeding, nesting and feeding sites and migration corridors, as well as to better understand the wide-ranging impacts of development activities on these species. The prototype system launched in April 2019 involved a systematic literature review of over 12,000 papers published since 1990 including ~ 6,000 on marine mammals, ~4,000 on birds, close to 3,000 for fish, and over 1,600 for sea turtles. A common issue was identified: while raw data were published in repositories, these data were not packaged and made available in formats useful for policy-makers and the private sector. The MiCO project provides this bridge between data contributions and decision-making.

Feedback is currently being sought on the prototype, and we are negotiating access to the data on behalf of Proteus Partners.

Strengthening Environmental Management of the Oil and Gas Sector under the Oil for Development Programme [\[download\]](#)

The Oil for Development programme of the Norwegian government extends support and funding to governments around the world to further economic, environmental and socially responsible management of petroleum resources. In addition to directly supporting government, the programme also creates an interface between government and industry. While businesses are not engaged by in the design phase of country level interventions they are involved when implementing programmes.

The environmental component of the programme addresses areas such as the legal framework; sensitivity mapping; environmental data management; impact assessments; contingency planning and emergency preparedness. The programme adopts a holistic approach to activities, for example the environmental data management aspect begins by establishing what kind of data is available, who owns it, and what are the standards used in data collection. Such data can then be used in the development of a product, such as a sensitivity atlas.

There are currently eight active programmes (five in planning stage and two in mapping phase): Ghana, Mozambique, Myanmar, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Lebanon and Angola. The programme here provides support such as training courses and workshops; drafting legal frameworks; sensitivity mapping of environmental assets; strengthening existing Environmental Management Systems and peer review (e.g. of Strategic Environmental Assessments).

Net Gain: Seeking better outcomes for people when mitigating biodiversity losses from development [\[download\]](#)

While there are an increasing number of policies mandating biodiversity offsetting to meet no net loss or net gain for biodiversity throughout the world, recognition of the social impact of biodiversity offsets is often overlooked. This creates a challenge for companies where there is a disconnect. Biodiversity offsets can impact people by preventing access to local biodiversity critical to livelihoods and by ignoring 'place based values' in design - so offsets are located too far from an affected community. These issues are illustrated by a case study in Madagascar and while avoidance and minimisation measures were put in place, compensation was required. High levels of habitat loss led to the development of livelihood projects aimed at stemming biodiversity loss. With government perception of such measures a major challenge, micro-development projects with various levels of success were sourced throughout the country. It was identified that more effective targeting/alignment between these micro-development projects and biodiversity offsets was needed to alleviate local level biodiversity loss.

A recent publication on "[Ensuring no net loss for people as well as biodiversity](#)" provides good practice guidance on the issue. It includes addressing the challenge social impacts of offsets falling between the environmental and social teams of companies. There are strong ethical, regulatory and practical reasons to consider social impacts related to local

people's use and non-use values of biodiversity when mitigating biodiversity loss. Failing to manage social considerations can reduce the effectiveness of an offset and present reputational risks to companies.

Restoration and the UN Decade [\[download\]](#)

Natural climate solutions (including reforestation) are central to meeting the 1.5°C Paris Climate Agreement. 2021-2030 will be the UN Decade on Restoration. The objectives are to support and scale up existing terrestrial and marine restoration efforts, by building on what countries are already doing. UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) are mandated to lead from within the UN system. The UN Decade recognises that halting further loss is insufficient, active efforts to restore ecosystems are required to avert the climate and biodiversity crises. The majority of work so far has considered forest ecosystems. Exploration of restoration of other ecosystems are at a very early stage. A global assessment of restoration potential is underway looking at biodiversity, climate and cost.

Combined Carbon and Biodiversity Management [\[download\]](#)

The relationship linking carbon and biodiversity is being emphasised more clearly through coordination among the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation). This is mirrored in changes to the standards of financial institutions and pressure from shareholder activists. Financial institutions are now setting standards that include requirements for projects to avoid or mitigation impacts on both biodiversity and carbon. Shareholders and ratings agencies also applying pressure to act on climate change and biodiversity impacts. However, climate change and biodiversity impacts are not managed by companies in a joined up way. Lack of information on the coincidence of areas of high biodiversity and areas of high carbon is one barrier to a more cohesive approach. New spatial data would help companies identify the best locations for combined carbon and biodiversity offsets to deliver multiple benefits, or to invest in additional conservation action.

Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: progress to date and next steps [\[download\]](#)

The Secretariat of the CBD is coordinating consultation on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The December 2018 submissions were synthesised and released in January 2019. More inputs were received from organisations than Parties. Regional consultations have gathered further input. To date, consultations have resulted in a range of suggestions, rather than negotiated agreement. Further synthesis of the discussions will be released periodically for consultation via the Convention on Biological Diversity's [website](#).

There are many aspirations for the framework: to cut across the entire government; to engage a wide range of stakeholders; to maintain transparency; to be cross cutting; to address the objectives of the Convention and other related instruments; and to link with the 2050 vision - by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, for the planet and the benefit of all people. [Upcoming meetings and events](#) relating to the post-2020 framework may be open to business, and the secretariat has expressed an invitation to business to come forwards.

The informal working group on mainstreaming consisting of 15 parties and 15 organisations will also feed into the post-2020 process. There were so many nominations that a separate Extended Consultative Network was developed, which include representatives from IPIECA and UNEP-WCMC. The Action Agenda for Nature and People launched at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 14) in Sharm el Sheik has been highlighted as a mechanism by which voluntary commitments from business and civil society can be recognised as contributing to the post-2020 framework. Business has not been highly visible in the process so far, however there remains a disconnect between calls for engagement by the private sector and the lack of formal mechanisms by which input can be adopted within the eventual negotiations.

Partner knowledge exchange

This session provided an opportunity for Partners to share their experiences and lessons learned regarding these topics.

Global Environmental Management Index (GEMI) project

Repsol shared their experience of moving towards a quantitative assessment of environmental impacts through the Global Environmental Management Index (GEMI) project. GEMI helps to quantify and manage impacts on natural capital, and is aligned with the Natural Capital Protocol. The methodology involves four steps: identification, quantification,

valuation and modulation. GEMI considers ecosystem services, including provisioning services, cultural and supporting services. It also draws on monetary values from recognized sources. The approach is aligned with the mitigation hierarchy to ensure that Repsol are targeting no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

While the finance team within the company were not part of the initial design of the framework, they have since become involved with the work. The methodology can be used to help understand measures such as green investment ratios and the cost efficiency of mitigation measures.

Ornithological monitoring for a wind farm

Equinor shared their experiences of an ongoing ornithological monitoring programme at the Dudgeon offshore windfarm. The sandwich tern, which moves between 2 colonies in the region holding 35% of the UK breeding population are thought to be within foraging range of the wind farm in the breeding season. The monitoring that Equinor is conducting aims to understand foraging range and flight height. Weather conditions and accessibility were among considerations when planning, conducting and analysing the results of the monitoring. The project illustrated the value of revisiting agreed methodologies to identify if monitoring can be improved, for example through use of different technologies.

Anglo American Partnership Support Protocol – Framework Overview

Anglo American is developing a framework for partnerships, the draft of which is undergoing testing this year. Anglo American made a Net Positive Impact commitment in 2018, with the goal to demonstrate success by 2030. One of the milestones in the strategy is to formalize partnerships to support this commitment. Anglo American have drawn on existing processes and frameworks to develop priorities, identify partners and support the implementation of agreed actions. Data provided through Proteus are used in the prioritization process. For example, using the IUCN Red List to identify opportunities to contribute to biodiversity science by providing information on data deficient species. While the approach is not related to the company’s impacts at this stage, it is part of the process building towards their Net Positive Impact commitment.

Day 2 – 14th June 2018

Presentations

Science-based Targets for Biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction (Annelisa Grigg, Principal Specialist, Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bending the curve (Neil Burgess, Chief Scientist, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Based Targets Initiative: The Story so Far (Samantha Hill, Senior Programme Officer, Science, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
Update on the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNEP-WCMC’s work on Post-2020 and Opportunities for Business Engagement (Daniela Guarás, Programme Officer, Ecosystem Assessment and Policy Support, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
Proteus Post-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proteus Structure and Workflow Post-2020 (Jonty Knox, Senior Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity, UNEP-WCMC) [download]

Supporting Materials

- Agenda [\[download\]](#) and Participant List [\[download\]](#)
- Discussion Paper: What should Proteus look like Post-2020 [\[download\]](#)

Science-based Targets for Biodiversity

Bending the Curve [\[download\]](#)

Against a backdrop of biodiversity decline, the aim of analysis presented in “[bending the curve](#)” is to identify actions to reduce and reverse the rate of biodiversity loss. The recent [IPBES report](#) synthesises the latest evidence on nature and nature’s contributions to people, which will feed into the post-2020 framework negotiations. The climate community has used a single communication metric (1.5°C) which has supported commitments and action from across government, society and business. What is the equivalent for biodiversity that people can rally around, understand and respond to? Different contributions can be allocated to different actors to achieve a reduction in biodiversity loss, then stabilization, and finally an increase in biodiversity. Successfully doing so would bend the declining curve of biodiversity loss back up to become positive.

Where can Proteus Partners add value? Partners can advocate for a transformational agreement by communicating that this is a global issue and that it does affect their businesses. They could think about what actions could be achieved by them to slow the rate of biodiversity loss. Nature-based solutions, for example, can address both biodiversity and climate considerations simultaneously.

Science Based Targets Network: The Story So Far [\[download\]](#)

Science-based targets are built around the concept of planetary boundaries. With nine boundaries all interlinking in one earth system; if you cross one boundary other earth systems will be impacted. The science based targets network involves coordinated hubs working together to understand and produce compatible targets within this boundary framework that can be presented to business as a single package (bringing climate, biodiversity, freshwater, land and ocean together). Forty organisations are involved so far in the Network, which is just beginning to engage with businesses. One problem is navigating the interlinkages and consolidation of a single set of targets for businesses. While the Network has to be aligned with global policies, it is moving towards a more bottom-up approach. There is also an aspiration for the Network to feed in to the process for developing the post-2020 framework, however it has no formal role in the negotiations.

UNEP-WCMC is co-leading the biodiversity hub for the Network. The biodiversity hub is considering a target based on the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric to assess the importance of a defined area in terms of species extinction risk. The hub is looking at a range of methodologies and indexes from which a single approach might be adopted, or to produce an aggregated biodiversity measure.

Group Discussion

What is the role of business in the development of science-based targets for biodiversity? How could science-based targets be used by businesses? What are the key barriers to the use of science-based targets for biodiversity for business? What are the lessons learned from the climate agenda?

- **Transparency** - If science-based targets come from a business-only process they will lack credibility. Transparency and inclusivity of the process is important to secure business contribution to development of biodiversity targets.
- **Drive change** - Targets which change behaviour around drivers of decline are likely to help companies more than species-level targets that are consequences of a number of different factors. Indicators will be much more powerful if they drive action rather than report what has occurred.
- **Avoid unintended consequences** - Care is needed not to create indicators that drive perverse behaviours. For example, in health and safety, “zero accident” targets can inhibit people from reporting and responding to minor injuries and eventually lead to a fatality.
- **Measure performance** – Targets need to be linked to clear metrics so that companies can use targets to measure and track what they are doing. This requires a baseline and metrics that work across sectors. For science-based targets to be effective these metrics need to be identified or developed.
- **Business relevant** – Targets should be SMART, linked to business activities and easily translated from, or linked between corporate and site level.
- **Attributable** – Targets should be based on impacts which are directly attributable to a company.

- **Participation** - Ensuring that all actors within a sector are participating is likely to be key to success. Some businesses would be more likely to sign up to a target if it is required by regulation. There needs to be a clear delineation of where individual stakeholders' responsibilities lay.
- **Communication** - The target(s) doesn't necessarily need to be easy to attain, but it should be aspirational and easy to communicate. Even partial success of an ambitious target would have biodiversity benefits.
- **Lessons from Carbon** - The 1.5-degree climate target is not perfect, but it is powerful, and has changed the way that senior company officials are speaking and thinking. An equally simple biodiversity target would aid communication within companies.

Update on the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Meeting Report Back –Multilateral Environmental Agreements

At the meeting in Switzerland 19th-20th June, eight biodiversity-related conventions and six chemical clusters of conventions united to discuss how to develop a more coherent approach to deliver the post-2020 framework. It was agreed that the new framework should build on existing frameworks, agreements and conventions. There were also many calls for greater business engagement.

UNEP-WCMC's work on Post-2020 and Opportunities for Business Engagement [\[download\]](#)

UNEP-WCMC is playing a key role in supporting the development of the post-2020 framework under our theme of work supporting intergovernmental agreements. The post-2020 framework will build on the 2011-2020 strategic plan and set the agenda to 2030. The framework will be aligned with the existing 2050 vision for biodiversity and address the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The level of ambition needed to achieve the 2050 vision is a focus of discussion among Parties. The importance of relationships with other processes, including other conventions and SDGs is also being stressed. While there have been submissions providing input at this stage there are no areas of agreement on aspects of the framework. The structure is not yet decided (e.g. the number of targets that should be included has not been agreed) but some Parties have suggested it should be based on the Aichi Targets that haven't been met, or had the least progress.

The involvement of the private sector is not defined and each Party has their own view on this. Some believe business should be involved in development and subsequent implementation of the framework, while others see that the main role of the private sector could be to make voluntary contributions or commitments towards the post-2020 framework once it has been set. There are significant cost implications for the implementation of the framework, and some Parties believe that innovative financial solutions could include the private sector. There are numerous opportunities for businesses to engage with the process, including participation at meetings, submission of views, input into region/national meetings and activities, and engaging in other associations and initiatives. Many opportunities for business engagement are outlined on the [Post-2020 timeline](#).

Through Proteus, UNEP-WCMC will continue to keep Partners up to date on progress through webinars, briefing notes and reports from meetings.

Business Initiatives to engage with the Post-2020 process

There are many existing business initiatives aimed at engagement with the post-2020 framework. One example of this is the Business for Nature initiative, involving WBCSD, We Mean Business and the World Economic Forum and others. Business for Nature is seeking alignment between existing work to restore the planet. The aim is to align stakeholders on commitments (ambitions) and solutions (actions); and give a voice to businesses. The initiative expects to create a narrative from business around nature to drive a high level policy ask at key political moments in 2020. The initiative includes signposting different business solutions; which other actors could get involved in. The timescale aligns with the process for developing the post-2020 framework in the lead up to COP15.

Business action on mainstreaming the value of natural capital (a joint UK initiative between BP, UNEP-WCMC, DEFRA, and JNCC) also aims to bring together business, government, academics, and NGOs to mobilise input into the post-2020 biodiversity framework. There will be a workshop for UK businesses in September 2019 to explore what targets would be most useful for UK businesses. The Open-Ended Working Group in August 2019 is highlighted by UK government as a

key moment for input. The Open-Ended Working Group will discuss high-level topics such as what the Group will be working on in the year ahead.

Group Discussion

What is the role of the private sector in developing and delivering the Post-2020 framework? What should the structure and scope of the Post-2020 framework be to resonate with business? What current or planned contributions could Proteus Partners make to support the Post-2020 framework?

- **Voice of Business** – Businesses need to be explicit on how they view their role in developing and delivering the post-2020 framework, otherwise their role will be defined by others. However, a lack of understanding or clarity in the process makes it difficult for some businesses to know how to engage.
- **Industry Associations** – Many businesses support engagement via industry associations. There is a need for multiple sector associations each with their voice as the sectors will have their own views and principles. The challenge with engagement through industry associations is having a unified voice/stance within the group, which can prove difficult.
- **Competing Demands** – The biodiversity crisis is only one of many issues that are on the list of issues that business leaders are dealing with; climate change is currently much higher on the agenda for oil and gas companies.
- **Proteus** - Proteus demonstrates the commitment of the Partners to contributing to the global biodiversity framework. Proteus should continue to help Partners engage with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the development of the post-2020 framework.
- **Learning Lessons** – There has been a failure to achieve the 2011-2020 goals. This should be acknowledged and learnt from. Repeating the same goals through the same process is unlikely to enlist support for implementation from the private sector.
- **National Level Engagement** - There are instances where companies can engage with specific governments rather than at the global level, but in this instance companies rarely see how their influence is taken forward and what impact it has. There is a need for transparent engagement at many levels.
- **Action Agenda** – Business would welcome further information about the Action Agenda.

Proteus Post-2020

Proteus Structure and Workflow Post-2020 [\[download\]](#)

The current phase of Proteus runs until December 2020. To align the future of Proteus with the post-2020 framework we need to ensure it is fit for purpose. More than £10 million has been invested through Proteus since its inception, plus leveraged funding. In 2018, 77% of partners said that the data provided through Proteus helps inform their decision making. What should Proteus look like both in structure and focus? Initial discussions identified some priorities for review with Partners:

- **Sustainable financing of open data** – UNEP-WCMC is at the forefront of making data open (removing restrictions on use). Over the next five years, we aim to make all the data we can available on open licenses. This will mean we achieve greater impact through greater uptake of data in decisions. It will also allow us to achieve long-term sustainability of funding for the data, including becoming eligible for funding from open-access foundations.
- **Restoration potential** – As we move into the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, Proteus could support work to develop a global dataset on restoration potential.
- **Data repository for biodiversity data** – biodiversity data is expensive to collect by companies, but once collected and used for its original purpose is often not made available to support conservation science. UNEP-WCMC could act as a facilitator to help companies overcome some of the challenges associated with sharing data.
- **Priority regions** – The current approach to priority countries could be expanded to priority regions.

There is also potential for Proteus to diversify membership away from mining and oil and gas companies to include three overlapping pillars: Mining, Energy and Infrastructure. Infrastructure is often highlighted as relevant to, or overlapping with the work of Proteus Partners.

A Proteus renewal plan has been developed to consult with Partners and secure input and buy in from existing members.

Group Discussions

Expanding Proteus

Partners supported a shift in Proteus to open the membership to other sectors.

Infrastructure – Connections with the Infrastructure sector make it a good fit. However, there is a need to define infrastructure further (e.g. construction companies, transport, marine) as each will have different drivers and associated risks.

Agriculture – There are similarities of scale between the activities of some Proteus Partners and agri-business (including their need to work across whole landscapes, and the involvement of existing Partners in biofuels) which may make agriculture a good sector on which to focus.

Smaller companies – Opening Proteus to smaller companies has parallels with the IPOIECA Membership model. However, it was noted that there may be a diminishing return on investment promoting Proteus to smaller entities. If Proteus engages with more sectors and big companies, it should be possible to rely on the major companies to filter information and good practice down to smaller companies

Consultancies – Consultancies hold a lot of biodiversity data, and are often engaged to work on the behalf of Partners. However, it was felt that Proteus is not the place to involve consultancies, and there are other avenues to ensure that they are better trained in use of biodiversity data, which already have consultant membership and buy-in.

Other – Proteus could open out to other sectors, for example renewables, as there was no significant difference foreseen in use of data. The cement industry has similar large scale projects to existing Partners and are not currently part of ICMM.

Sustainable Financing for Quality Data

Partners noted challenges but responded positively to the move towards making data open. This is aligned with the objective of Proteus to put data in the hands of decision makers.

Access to data is one aspect of the business case for companies to engage in Proteus. However, the convening power, data interpretation, and access to UNEP-WCMC staff knowledge was stated as being a more than sufficient business case to maintain the Partnership. A business case built solely on access to data is not enough anymore, and Partners already acknowledge that interpretation is the value they receive from the Proteus Partnership. The business case could be further strengthened if information on the cost savings from using IBAT could be collated by Partners.

Biodiversity Data Repository

A lot of repeated time, money and effort goes into companies collecting data on similar things in similar locations. Some companies are already sharing data through Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) but this is not globally consistent. There are challenges associated with data sharing which can be overcome, with a potential role for Proteus in doing so. This could include interpretation of the GBIF data to improve knowledge of data overlaps and data gaps, Quality assurance, and formatting.

Priority Regions

Partners currently have the ability to nominate three priority update countries in the WDPA and marine and coastal datasets. This could be expanded to more countries/trans-boundary regions, or include deeper engagement with countries, such as capacity building work with regulators. More information and communication on data quality, and progress of updates would enhance the value of this aspect of Proteus, however the realistic timeframe of updates (years) may always make it difficult to make this a central part of the business case for the Partnership.

Annex 1: Summary of feedback survey

- Respondents thought that the length of the impact survey was just right but made suggestions on how it could be improved, such as: increasing the detail collected; providing a facility for individuals to keep a copy of their responses; and finding a mechanism to recognise that some resources are valuable even if not used by many people.
- Respondents stated that holding the meeting once a year was appropriate, as was the inclusion of both closed and open sessions on each day. Respondents also suggested holding the meeting over a longer period, and proposed quarterly calls or other similar opportunities and asked for different formats of session to be used across the meeting.
- The length of the presentation sessions were mostly thought to be just right. However, some respondents felt they were too long. Most respondents noted that the time provided for discussion afterward presentations was too short.
- Daniel Dunn's presentation on the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) project was most commonly listed as the favourite presentation of the meeting, while many different presentations were identified as being particularly relevant.
- All respondents indicated that group discussions were beneficial.
- A number of respondents indicated that holding the meeting on a Friday was not the best day and if possible would hold the meeting earlier in the week. However holding the meeting in the same week as other meetings (including indicators and IPICEA) was welcomed.