

Proteus Annual Report 2021

Supporting companies to be nature-positive



WCMC

proteus

Foreword

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

2021 – 2030 is the decade of action on the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It will also be key to accelerating the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. More than ever, we need partnerships to address biodiversity challenges and enable transformative action to achieve a nature-positive future.

Since 2003, Proteus has been a vehicle for 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. Proteus has achieved a great deal since its inception. Now is the time to build on that success.

2021 was a landmark year for the Proteus Partnership as the launch point of an ambitious five-year strategy. Moving forward, it will be key to our success to diversify the Partnership and increase its reach, impact and value. We have already made good strides with the adoption of a Proteus expansion plan and have engaged a number of new businesses. Proteus has also been increasing its reach within the existing Partner base with over 350 Partner employees receiving bespoke biodiversity training. We have continued to invest in the quality and availability of biodiversity data associated with protected areas, marine habitats, coastal habitats and restoration resilience.

Proteus is at an exciting point of its history and is well placed to accelerate business action on nature.



Stacey Baggaley,
Senior Programme Officer,
Nature Economy,
UNEP-WCMC

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.

Goal 1

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

In response to increasing global attention towards nature, Proteus is in a good position to support companies to recognize their responsibilities, take action to address impacts and communicate the importance of nature across their business.

In 2021, we offered several packages of support under this goal.

1. To help Proteus Partners build awareness of nature and biodiversity considerations, we developed and delivered targeted packages of training materials, helping them to build awareness of nature and biodiversity considerations.
2. We also produced several types of communication materials. These included slide decks and business briefings that Proteus Partners could use to engage internally.
3. In November, Proteus Partners, experts, and organizations came together for the 2021 Proteus Annual Meeting to discuss the latest thinking on the biodiversity-climate nexus, catalysing action for transformation in the years ahead. The meeting looked towards an emerging global policy landscape with more ambitious targets for nature and climate. Participants discussed the role of business in supporting transitions and enabling benefits for nature, climate and people. This was highlighted by a workshop on 'Communicating the Business Case for Nature'.

Goal 2

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

Proteus brought new updates and functionality to global biodiversity data resources in 2021.

1. The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) was updated for 109 countries and territories, resulting in a net increase of 11,632 records and bringing the total number of sites to 270,301.
2. A new restoration resilience layer was developed to help the private sector identify restoration opportunities that are resilient to climate change.
3. Other features and data layers added to the toolset of Proteus included a larger directory of Key Performance Indicators for land-use finance, an Impact Assessment Tool, and IUCN Management Category Analytics.
4. IBAT gained a new layer on Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR), allowing partners to identify areas where conservation action can have the biggest impact on species' extinction risk, as well as set meaningful and measurable science-based targets.
5. The informatics and datasets of Ocean+ and the newly launched Ocean+ habitats was integrated into the services of Proteus, to improve marine and coastal datasets.

**>70 Datasets available
to Partners**

Goal 2

Proteus also provided a stream of engagement materials throughout 2021 via interactive webinars and informative briefing documents. Partners gained greater familiarity and understanding of innovative datasets and emerging topics, including:

1. The role of mining and energy companies in enabling a nature positive energy transition.
2. New datasets such as the global layer of hotspots of potential natural capital depletion.
3. Peer-to-peer sessions exploring each others' experiences of using company biodiversity screening tools.

Proteus data and knowledge resources are supplemented through the delivery of tailored training, data support and technical assistance that allow companies to better integrate these within their processes and systems while building capacity for effective biodiversity management. Proteus delivered:

1. Diverse training topics ranging from the business case for biodiversity to setting targets with the STAR metric.
2. Solutions to 83 data queries from Partners on how to use and interpret data.
3. 460 hours of UNEP-WCMC's expertise to tackle larger technical tasks, ranging from carrying out complex analyses to producing technical materials on biodiversity.

4 Technical
briefs

8 Webinars

22 Training
sessions

Goal 3

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

As the global policy agenda ramps up towards more ambitious targets for nature, supporting Proteus Partners to navigate global agendas and understand the implications for business remains a core goal.

1. Proteus has delivered updates throughout 2021, including briefing documents on the outcomes of IUCN World Conservation Congress and CBD COP15 Part 1. Global policy updates and their implications for Partners were explored at the Proteus annual meeting.
2. In anticipation of the eagerly awaited post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a range of tools, frameworks and initiatives emerged to help businesses integrate nature into their decision making. Proteus helped Partners navigate this complex landscape through webinars and documents covering the current state of biodiversity measurement, disclosure and target setting, as well as the alignment between different accounting approaches for nature.
3. To assure that biodiversity terms and acronyms are more accessible, Proteus continued to update the Biodiversity A-Z website, including sector-specific expressions.

24 Speakers at the annual meeting

35 Additions to the Biodiversity A-Z

Goal 4

Sustain a viable mutually beneficial partnership through cross-sectoral collaboration

For over 18 years, the Proteus Partnership has been a vehicle for leading companies in the extractives sector to address their relationship with biodiversity. Proteus helps companies to recognize their responsibilities for protecting nature and contributes towards global efforts to safeguard biodiversity and tackle environmental challenges.

2021 marked an exciting launch point for Proteus with ambitions to broaden reach to new sectors and businesses. Building on nearly two decades of experience, Proteus is well positioned to foster innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration to enable businesses to incorporate biodiversity into their site- and corporate-level decision making.

>18 years working
with the
private sector



Reach in 2021

14

Proteus Partners

109

Countries with updated data in the WDPa

>460

Hours of technical support provided

>350

Participants to training sessions

83

Data queries resolved

16

Webinars and technical briefs

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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We are now on [LinkedIn](#)

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