

Meeting report

Proteus Annual Meeting 2018

Day 1 - 20th June 2018

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

Proteus Partners met in Cambridge to review the Partnership’s key achievements over the course of 2017, and identify new areas of interest for the coming years.

Objectives of the day

- To brief Proteus members 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

Presentations

Introduction and update on Proteus and IBAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proteus update: 2017 highlights, 2018 impact survey results and financial report (Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
Horizon scanning – emerging issues and new developments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) – new developments and emerging issues (Naomi Kingston, Head of Programme, Protected Areas and Marine Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download] ▪ Blue carbon, green carbon and biodiversity (Lera Miles, Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download] ▪ Mapping biodiversity threats – applications for extractives (Neil Burgess, Chief Scientist, UNEP-WCMC) [download]
Partner knowledge exchange – slots for partners to highlight initiatives/projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focusing on implementation: integrating biodiversity into risk management processes (Theresia Ott, Principal Advisor: Group Environment, Rio Tinto) [download]
Biodiversity management post-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The road to 2020 - implications for extractives (Jerry Harrison, Head of Programme, Conventions and Policy Support Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download] ▪ Mainstreaming biodiversity into extractives and infrastructure – emerging recommendations for the Convention on Biological Diversity’s 14th Conference of the Parties (Katie Dawkins, Programme Officer, Business and Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC) [download] ▪ Experiences of engaging with the Convention on Biological Diversity (Gertjan Roseboom, on behalf of IPIECA) [download]

Supporting Materials

- Agenda [\[download\]](#) and participant list [\[download\]](#)
- Proteus Impact Survey 2018 [\[download\]](#) and Proteus Annual Report 2017 [\[download\]](#)

Take away messages

- The Proteus Partnership is now in its 15th year, and a lot has changed in that time. The language of conservation has changed, the Sustainable Development goals have come to prominence, there is increasing focus on mainstreaming or integrating biodiversity and the role of the private sector is more recognized. Approximately three times more of the planet is protected now than 15 years ago.
- Following successes from previous years, in 2017 Proteus delivered significant updates to protected areas data, marine and coastal datasets, and supported the continued development of data in the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool. Partner funding also facilitated major leverage funding.
- Partners found the sessions very informative in terms of seeing additional benefits and services available through Proteus beyond data.
- Additionally, the Partners knowledge sharing session was seen as particularly valuable. For example, Partners appreciated learning from others' approaches to developing new biodiversity strategies, and the multiple benefits of engaging with conservation organisations beyond direct benefits to biodiversity.
- The session on carbon was particularly appreciated as it is a big focus for many companies, and there are multiple benefits to be gained beyond carbon emissions reductions from conserving carbon-rich ecosystems.
- Partners appreciated UNEP-WCMC's continued support and advice on how best to engage with and influence the post-2020 agenda for biodiversity.

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

Introduction and update on Proteus

UNEP-WCMC were pleased to report the following highlights of activities completed by the Proteus Partnership in 2017:

- **Improved protected areas data** – A total of 106 countries' records were updated in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), with a net increase of 4,030 records and 86% of records updated or validated.
- **New marine and coastal data** – The cold-water coral and saltmarsh datasets were updated and are available to Proteus Partners through the [Ocean Data Viewer](#). A new initiative called [Ocean+](#) was launched in 2017, focusing on marine and coastal data, and so far information for over 180 datasets has been collected.
- **Global Critical Habitat screening layer** – The layer, which was funded and tested by Proteus Partners, was released to technical users in 2017. The layer was accompanied by a briefing note, and two justification documents that align criteria of other marine designations with the criteria for identifying Critical Habitat as defined by the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 6.
- **Data updates in the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)** – The three core datasets (Protected Areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, and IUCN Red List Species) were updated in IBAT. In addition, IBAT is being redeveloped and current progress on the redevelopment was presented to Partners on 22 June 2018.
- **Biodiversity indicators** – A new report on biodiversity indicators for extractives companies was released by UNEP-WCMC following the 2017 Annual Proteus Member's Meeting. Information on current activity was provided in the session dedicated to indicators on 21 June 2018.
- **New biodiversity resources** – New [Technical Briefing Notes](#) (e.g. Ecosystem-based Adaptation), [webinars](#) on emerging topics (e.g. natural capital) and [Technical Community of Practice](#) webinars (e.g. on working with data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) can be accessed on the [Proteus website](#).
- **Training and Technical support** – In 2017, several Partners drew on the training, technical support and technical assistance available to them through the Partnership. Overall, UNEP-WCMC delivered four technical assistance projects, four training sessions, and responded to 35 queries.
- **Engaging in business and biodiversity** – The Proteus team continued to engage in major events that guide the global biodiversity agenda, including: the International Association for Impact Assessment's Special Symposium, the World Forum on Natural Capital, and the 21st Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-21).

This year marked the third year that the Proteus impact survey was circulated to Partners. The 2018 impact survey received good levels of engagement, and was the first year that more responses were received from technical users than corporate/policy staff. All users, and technical users in particular, continue to show increased familiarity with the Partnership and assigned higher value to marine and coastal resources provided through the Partnership than in previous years. Biodiversity assessments and the application of the mitigation hierarchy are consistently high priority issues for Proteus Partners.

Total income from Proteus Partners in 2017 was GBP 721,784. Total expenditure was GBP 718,831, which resulted in a small carry-forward to 2018. The total 2017 income was used to leverage funds at a ratio of £1:1.1 from other funders, amounting to a £1:£24 ratio of return on investment per Partner. The funds that were previously included in the contingency were re-allocated to data and information, which is a major priority to Partners.

The 2018 work plan and budget was based on all 12 MOUs being signed before the start of the year, allowing full allocation of budgets and no need for a contingency.

Questions and Answers

- **On the relative contribution of Proteus to the maintenance of the World Database on Protected Areas:** This varies between years according to scheduled activities for the Protected Areas Programme. In 2017 it amounted to approximately 50%, whereas in 2018 it will likely amount to between 1/4 and 1/3 due to the preparation of the Protected Planet Report, which leads to additional funding being brought in.
- **On the impact survey and whether technical users answered questions on priority issues:** The impact survey does not currently ask technical users to input on priority issues for them, but the 2019 impact survey will be adapted to include this.

Proteus Partner feedback on the shape of Proteus in 2018/9

- Attendees reported that the Partnership provides a good forum for companies to generate discussions on biodiversity issues and the opportunity to create positive change.
- Interactive polls within the session confirmed Partner feedback from previous years that the provision of data is the most valuable resource provided by the Partnership. The consistency of this feedback is reflected in the increase of funds allocated to data and information in the 2018 work plan and budget.
- The highest priorities for Partners in 2018-2019 revolve around data quality and access to data (Table 1). In particular, there is increasing demand for high quality data on marine biodiversity features, ecosystem services, natural capital, natural and modified habitat, and the effects of climate change on biodiversity, to improve Environmental Impact Assessments and screening processes. Greater linkage between global datasets and national-level data was also identified as a high priority. Both predictive and historical data layers were seen as important, for example, in helping anticipate changes in national protected area coverage or identifying areas in carbon-rich ecosystems that would benefit most from biodiversity offsets, respectively.
- Knowledge and insights provided through webinars was reported as highly valuable to technical data users who also saw them as a good forum for discussion. However, the current format is restricted by several Proteus Partners' firewalls. UNEP-WCMC will explore switching to software that is compatible with all Partners' security protocols.
- In the lead up to 2020, it was suggested that Proteus could provide added value by focusing on priority countries for Proteus Partners, providing information on their progress towards the Aichi Targets and expected changes in protected area coverage.
- Partners expressed interest in a guide for Proteus data and resources (i.e. datasets, training potential, data verification, technical assistances), which focal points within companies could use to promote the Partnership internally.

Table 1. Potential priorities for the Proteus Partnership in 2018-2020 based on suggestions made by the partners.

	Suggested Priority	Votes	Rank
Country-level data	Include data from national datasets, to provide a one-stop-shop for publicly available data	7	2
	Invest in partnerships in countries that have seen no or very limited improvement in quality of protected area data over last few (or in some cases) many years	2	
Data management	Provide flexible and user-friendly spatial data management tool to analyse the latest identified biodiversity hotspots	2	
	Incorporate a system to enable users to upload shapefiles and choose a buffer around a region and then use the tool to search all relevant data (across databases) to define which species / protected areas may be impact by potential operations	2	
	Provide a service to load data directly into individual company ESRI Portals for ArcGIS software	1	
Data gaps and quality	Expand marine baseline data	8	1
	Incorporate other big datasets (GBIF, LEFT) in addition to the WDPA, Red List, etc. to inform industry decisions	5	3
	Expand Red List species datasets and include Ecosystem Services	4	
	Continue to provide excellent data quality in the far reaching areas in the world	4	
	Add cumulative impacts information to the existing data	1	
	Make available climate change adaptation information	1	
	Identify and communicate gaps in data coverage and areas of poor data quality	0	
	Ensure that data is as current as possible	0	
General development	Engage with other voluntary associations on accreditation, benchmarking and harmonizing data to create one system	2	
	Improve data sharing across Proteus Partners	2	
	Develop processes that are robust that can be used as a base for the risk assessment process	1	
	Meet the priorities for companies identified through the survey	0	
	Facilitation of face to face partner discussions/forums more than once a year in other parts of the world	0	
	Reduce cost of Partnership membership	0	

Horizon scanning – emerging issues and new developments

In the lead up to 2020, governments in particular are turning the majority of their attention towards reporting on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Climate change mitigation and mapping threats to biodiversity are also receiving increasing attention from the global conservation community. This session explored key issues and reported major achievements to date.

Progress towards reporting on Aichi Target 11 has been made, but substantial action is still required by 2020. Information on the quantity of protected areas is well tracked and reported (14.8% coverage in terrestrial realm, 16.8% coverage of national waters, and over 7% for the entire marine realm), but information on the quality of protected areas requires additional attention. UNEP-WCMC along with partners such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are working to address this by increasing availability of information on management effectiveness (e.g. in the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness, GD-PAME) and equity (further information can be found on the [Protected Planet webpage](#)). UNEP-WCMC are also involved in defining Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and in assessing the multiple benefits of protected areas and OECMs.

Climate change mitigation through carbon emissions reduction is increasingly important. With land use change being a major contributor of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, this session discussed how extractives companies could

contribute by strategically integrating key carbon-rich ecosystems into their environmental management practices. Higher resilience of ecosystems to climate change is linked to higher levels of biodiversity, meaning that conserving biodiversity contributes to climate change resilience. A recent assessment to which UNEP-WCMC contributed found that there are several ecosystems in the terrestrial and marine realms that represent important carbon sinks. Many of these are under high levels of threat from human activities. Extractives companies could apply the Mitigation Hierarchy in carbon-rich ecosystems, contributing to reducing impacts within the wider landscape, and by supporting national mitigation strategies. An update on the current state of knowledge and activities that extractives companies could engage with are provided in the Technical Briefing Note developed by UNEP-WCMC as a pre-read to the 2018 Annual Members' Meeting.

UNEP-WCMC along with partners from the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, have been working to map major threats to biodiversity, based on for example the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. UNEP-WCMC have collated existing maps of threat data, along with metadata, and examined the results when overlaid with locations of industry activities. In addition, UNEP-WCMC are working with partners to create a tool that links data on threats to species recorded in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species with existing knowledge recorded in the Conservation Evidence database. Feedback was sought from Partners during the meeting and through an [ongoing survey](#), regarding their needs for spatial data in Cumulative Impact Assessments.

Questions and Answers

- **On how the commodities sourced by multinational companies are directly, and indirectly, impacting on biodiversity values:** This is an important question that companies would like to have answered. Certain tools already exist to examine supply chains (e.g. [TRASE](#)), however, they do not comprehensively cover the topics discussed in this session.
- **On the need for national-level data:** Companies rely on global data for screening, but once they move to later stages of the project cycle, national and site-level data are necessary to inform decisions. UNEP-WCMC will explore developing a website that will hold information on national commitments towards increasing protected area coverage, allowing governments, private entities, and communities to input data.
- **On the availability of data to site offsets:** Maps that show opportunities for carbon offsets would be valuable to help companies identify the most strategic areas to locate their offsets. Legacy data could also be used to target activities in areas where, for example, mangroves were historically located. Some indication of the credentials of existing offset projects would also be valuable to Partners.
- **On the need for qualitative information:** A quality metric to help understand the quality of the environment within protected areas and other designations would be valuable.

Partner knowledge exchange – slots for partners to highlight initiatives/projects

Integration of biodiversity into corporate management processes, demonstrating best practice to secure the industry's social license to operate, and safely sharing national and site-level biodiversity data collected by companies remain important topics for the extractives industry. This session provided an opportunity for Partners to share their experiences and lessons learned regarding these topics.

An assessment of the Net Positive Impact commitments implemented by Rio Tinto revealed that the commitment was insufficient in producing intended positive outcomes for biodiversity. Major barriers included a lack of clarity on the requirements to achieve Net Positive Impact, and misalignment of the commitment with corporate drivers and management strategies. Rio Tinto is now adopting an integrated approach to biodiversity management, supported by a new biodiversity standard. The new standard, developed closely with site managers, will integrate biodiversity into the company's existing risk management framework, ensuring that sites apply the Mitigation Hierarchy. Implementation will be mandatory and subject to auditing across sites, even where there are no regulator or lender requirements.

BHP relayed key messages from a recent meeting of the Resources 2030 Taskforce in Australia. A briefing note outlining key environmental issues that negatively affect the resources sector was produced from the meeting. A major focus of these issues was the provision of biodiversity data. Within the extractives sector all data used to clear approval stages is publically available. This helps recognise the importance of national-level data and the large contributions that extractives companies can make by sharing data. UNEP-WCMC has previously worked to promote data sharing between the private sector and the conservation / scientific community, more recently producing a briefing note on data sharing

with the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative. The topic has consistently remained a priority and further discussions on the topic with companies are welcome.

Woodside shared experiences from a project that was led with BirdLife International and their local partners to support conservation initiatives in the Geum estuary of South Korea to protect migratory shorebird habitats along the East Asia - Australia flyway. In addition to the conservation benefits for the migratory species in question, the benefits to the Partner included better relationships and a raised profile with local organisations in relevant countries, and also a better standing with the government authorities. The success of the project has resulted in greater interest in conservation initiatives by the company and led to additional collaborations around the world that benefit biodiversity.

Shell have established a partnership with EarthWatch to send non-scientific staff members into the field to provide an understanding of how scientists carry out field surveys. A second collaboration grew out of this to provide management capacity building training to protected areas in African countries. Shell staff act as business mentors to build efficiency and management capacity for selected protected areas. Annual workshops are held in one of the host countries, enabling mentors and mentees to come together to produce business oriented action plans for their individual protected areas. This initiative provides opportunities for increased conservation outcomes but also allows Shell to leverage relationships in the countries of interest.

Questions and Answers

- **On Rio Tinto's communications relating to the new biodiversity standard:** The Group will not have a company-wide commitment, but rather focus on the roll-out and implementation of the standard's requirements.
- **On whether there will be additional costs for sites due to the rolling out of the new biodiversity standard within Rio Tinto:** Thanks to the high degree of involvement from site-level practitioners, the standard is widely accepted and applicable at site-level – there has been no push back from the sites.

Biodiversity management post-2020

With the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 nearing its close, the global policy space is particularly focused on developing the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This session explored progress made to date and presented key milestones for the extractives sector's engagement in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) mainstreaming agenda.

Major actors in the environmental policy space are turning their attention towards the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This is expected to drive major developments that will affect actors in all sectors, including the conservation community and private sector. UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with the CBD have developed a draft proposal on the preparatory process for the post-2020 biodiversity agenda. The proposal is based on lessons learnt from the development of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The proposed process contains several workshops and meetings that seek engagement from key stakeholders, including the private sector. These can be tracked via the [Post-2020 timeline tool](#) developed by UNEP-WCMC.

UNEP-WCMC is currently conducting a project in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, to support the Convention's agenda on mainstreaming biodiversity into energy, mining and infrastructure sectors. This process is taking place through a series of key meetings dedicated to business and biodiversity, including global and regional platforms and forums. UNEP-WCMC have developed several documents that provide guidance to governments on the ways in which biodiversity can most effectively be mainstreamed into the energy, mining and infrastructure sectors. Also part of this is the International Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the Sectors of Energy and Mining, Manufacturing and Processing and Infrastructure in Cairo, co-convened by the Convention on Biological Diversity which ran in parallel to the Proteus Annual Meeting.

IPIECA's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Working Group has been engaged in the Convention on Biological Diversity mainstreaming process. IPIECA were invited to attend the recent meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and were the only business representatives. Key take-home messages from SBSTTA were that NGOs were present and working to make their voices heard – they feel that current commitments are not demanding enough. Governments are seeking input to determine good practice in mainstreaming biodiversity. There are some concerns around how businesses can continue to operate in harmony with the conservation community while achieving benefits that are required to maintain and conserve biodiversity at the

magnitude and scale required. IPIECA will continue their engagement in upcoming meetings relating to mainstreaming and shaping the post-2020 biodiversity Agenda.

Questions and Answers

- **On the process for nominating people to input into the biodiversity agenda process:** The CBD have a contact database, which they maintain based on previous activities and involvement, and they reach out to these contacts whenever an opportunity for input arises. UNEP-WCMC are also able to nominate contacts to be included in communications.
- **On how the oil and gas industry can overcome the misconception from outside the industry that biodiversity is not mainstreamed within oil and gas industry:** This is something that will require continued involvement in the major meetings that were mentioned. Countries each have their own views on the extractives industry, and this must be kept in mind when holding discussions on the status of mainstreaming.
- **On whether other industries were represented in the meetings to date:** There were no other sectors represented at the recent SBSTTA meeting, but there have been at other events – it is very dependent on the focus of each meeting. The extractives industry has been better represented in most meetings and events to date than other industries.

Breakout Group Feedback

What is the role of business in the formulation and implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity decisions?

- There has been varied engagement in the CBD process to date. The final Conference of the Parties at the end of the year is seen as key in influencing the post-2020 strategy, but the onus is on governments in delivering the strategy.
- For the CBD, biodiversity is at the centre of their thinking, but this is not the case for businesses, who have many other competing priorities.
- The CBD resources are constrained and there are challenges in understanding corporate cultures and constraints, and engaging senior business leaders within constrained timeframes.
- UNEP-WCMC has played a valuable role in translating the CBD process and recommendations for business.

What tangible actions are needed by Parties and businesses to implement the draft recommendations?

- The priority for the extractives industry is around carbon, so linking the recommendations to carbon and climate change would make them more effective.
- The revised typology is a mixture of responsibilities between governments and companies. There are many issues that are currently being addressed by companies, but not in a very overt way due to other priorities which are seen as more important to communicate to stakeholders.
- Engagement and partnerships between the private sector and NGOs may be challenging, but there have been good successes already.
- Measuring progress is another key challenge. There is a feeling that the Global Reporting Initiative is not necessarily providing the best framework to measure progress on biodiversity.

How can we achieve effective dialogue between business and Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity?

- A proactive briefing approach would be helpful in keeping the private sector engaged and informed.
- Trade association involvement could help to address lack of resources within companies.
- Partners are generally aware of opportunities to engage in the process, but this session has helped to raise awareness.
- At previous meetings (e.g. Mexico) people felt they did not have many opportunities to shape the agenda and discussions, but the current process is more inclusive, which is enabling higher engagement.
- Engagement with governments is a key issue, there needs to be openness from both sides. There is no clear understanding from the CBD Parties of how businesses operate. Governments need to proactively engage with the private sector, and businesses need to ensure they are coordinated in this engagement. Sessions could focus on how topics can fit into business management processes.
- There is a real need for cross-sectoral dialogue and engagement to advocate and add weight to each other's positions.
- Attendance by senior business leaders is important in enabling effective dialogue. Senior leaders within companies have been approached in relation to the next High-level event. However, previously when invitations

have been extended to companies, timeframes are too short notice to secure attendance from leaders at these events.

- Resources are required at the national level to engage in important discussions. Smaller companies do not have the resources to attend events at which they would like to/need to be present.
- Many companies have case-studies, but these are not systematically shared with governments at the meetings. Partners feel this is necessary and may help to ensure dialogue is more effective.

What are the implications of the post-2020 agenda and how does it fit with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitments?

- It is possible that the SDG targets that relate to biodiversity might be extended and updated beyond 2020. However, there is no scope for re-negotiating them.
- One key action to be included within the post-2020 agenda is to be more specific about what it wants to achieve, which will make the pathway clearer and easier to achieve.
- Biodiversity ambitions are not well articulated within the SDGs. This needs to be clarified in order to allow companies to showcase the work they are already doing that delivers on biodiversity goals. A role was identified for trade associations to promote these.
- The SDGs are seen as having been set for governments, but business picked these up quickly. However, they are not tailored to businesses. The feeling is that these are still government targets, so companies can contribute and support them, but they are not accountable for their delivery.

Annex 1: Summary of feedback survey

- All respondents stated that holding the meeting once a year was appropriate. Justification of attendance would be difficult at higher frequencies. It was suggested that an online forum be set up at 6-month intervals to enable partner engagement.
- Responses also highlighted that respondents were happy with the meeting format and that the Chatham House rule was important to secure confidence in participation.
- All respondents stated that the length of presentations were just right. However, a few responses indicated that discussion times were cut a little short and that presentations or breaks could be shortened to allow enough time for discussion.
- Naomi Kingston's presentation on Other Effective Conservation Measures was the majority favourite, and the Partner knowledge sharing and mainstreaming biodiversity through the Convention on Biological Diversity sessions were the most useful and relevant.
- All respondents indicated that discussions were beneficial and that understanding other company views was of high value.
- The majority of respondents saw measuring the impact of Proteus on an annual basis as valuable. Suggested improvements include the provision of communication materials in a format that can disseminated externally and that results be verified by companies attending the annual meeting.