

# Proteus Quarterly Update

## October to December 2023

UN  WCMC  
environment  
programme

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# 1.1 Highlights

## UNFCCC COP28

UNFCCC COP28 took place in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December. Numerous meetings and announcements throughout the event addressed the role of biodiversity in tackling the climate crisis.

- Nature was integrated into the [first Global Stocktake](#) of collective progress toward meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, which emphasises the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework marking the first official reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity in climate COP text.
- The connection between climate, nature and people was made prominent in a [Joint Statement](#) endorsed by 18 countries, including the CBD COP15 Presidency and the UNFCCC COP28 Presidency, and voluntary partnerships, initiatives and coalitions. The statement highlights the importance of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions.
- COP28 has continued to strengthen alignment between nature and climate in international and national policy agendas. This recognition is set to persist and deepen further.



Point of Contact  
Laura Nery Silva

# 1.2 Highlights

## UNEP-WCMC Impact Report

### Putting nature at the heart of decision making

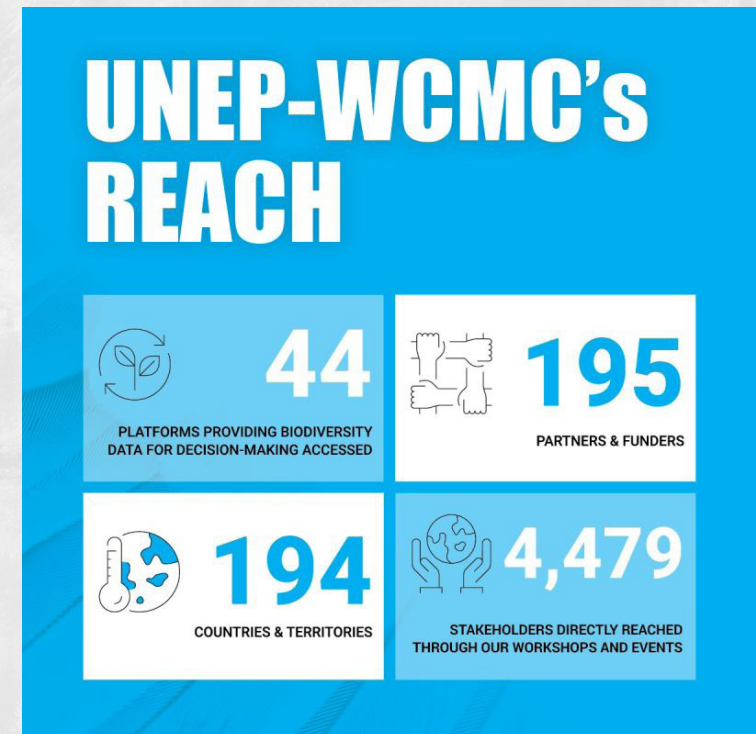
Our Impact Report celebrates UNEP-WCMC's recent achievements with partners in tackling the global nature crisis. Our efforts are geared towards supporting partners to:

- Understand and act on the state of nature
- Act upon opportunities for change
- Develop knowledge and capacity for a nature-positive world

Across 2022-2023, 23 tools and platforms were made available or significantly improved, including those used by Proteus Partners such as the World Database on Protected Areas and various marine datasets.

 Access [UNEP-WCMC Impact Report](#)

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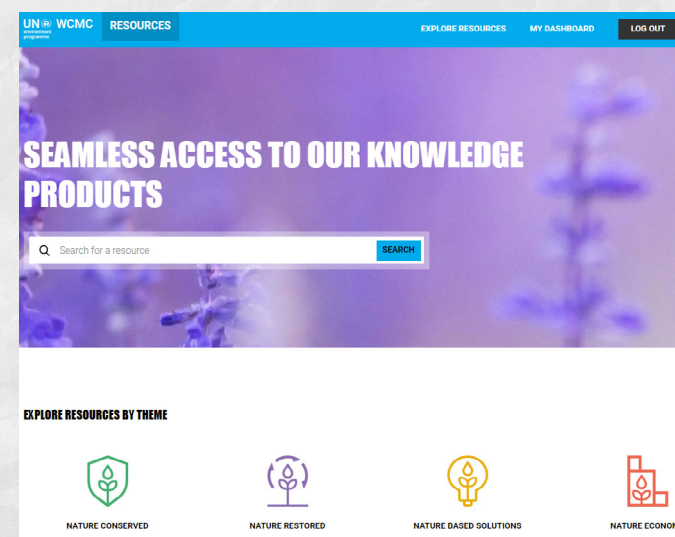


Point of Contact  
Alfred Muge

# 1.3 Highlights

## Proteus datasets on UNEP-WCMC Resources

- All Proteus website users now have a dedicated and secure dashboard on the UNEP-WCMC Resources site. The dashboard provides users with instant and easy access to datasets made available through Proteus.
- To access the Proteus area of UNEP-WCMC Resources, simply login to the [Proteus website](#), go to the 'Knowledge Hub' and click on 'UNEP-WCMC Resources'.
- The Proteus area in UNEP-WCMC Resources will be expanded over time to include more business-relevant spatial datasets and documents.
- For more information about Proteus' work on biodiversity spatial data, please see our short guide to Proteus Data Availability, [here](#).



Point of Contact  
Aime Rankin

# 1.4 Highlights

## Release of updated global Critical Habitat screening layer

An updated spatial dataset designed for desk-based screening for Critical Habitat as defined in the International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6).

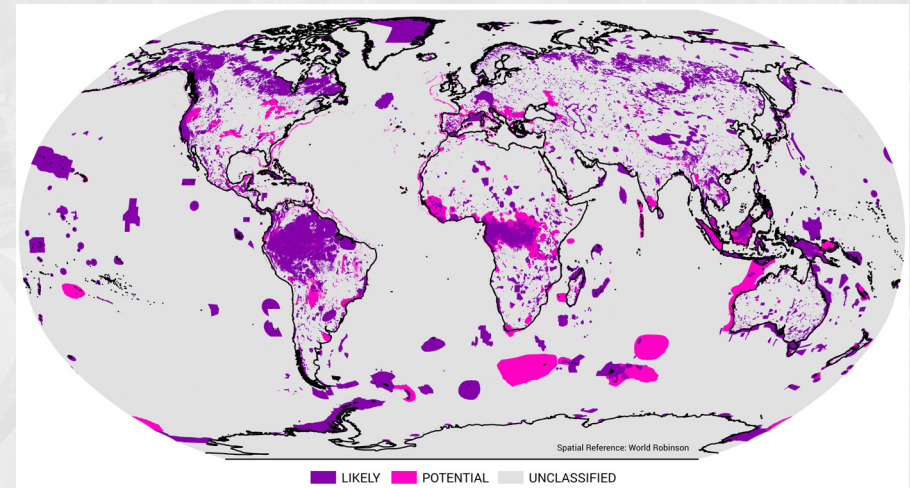
The layer was updated to:

- Make use of recent updates to key underpinning biodiversity datasets and incorporate relevant new high-quality data sources.
- Align with [changes in interpretation of criteria for Critical Habitat](#) based on updated IFC guidance ([Guidance Note 6](#)).
- Respond to feedback from Proteus Partners, for example by structuring to enable easier filtering in GIS software.

We welcome feedback from Partners on your experiences using the updated layer.

 Access the [updated layer](#)

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Sebastian Dunnett

# 2.1 Partnership Updates

## ExxonMobil and Glencore

### Partners announcement

- ExxonMobil and Glencore concluded their involvement with the Proteus Partnership at the end of 2023.
- This brings the total number of Proteus Partners to 14 companies.
- We thank both companies for their involvement in the Partnership over the past years, and wish them the best in their future efforts to address biodiversity impacts and dependencies within their organisations.

<b>AngloAmerican</b>	<b>BHP</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>Chevron</b>
<b>ENGIE</b>	<b>ENI</b>	<b>Equinor</b>	<b>Hydro</b>
<b>Newmont</b>	<b>Repsol</b>	<b>RioTinto</b>	<b>Shell</b>
<b>Teck</b>	<b>TotalEnergies</b>		



Point of Contact  
Stacey Baggaley


# 2.2 Partnership Updates

## Training and Technical Assistance in 2023

Training and technical assistance provided to Partner companies through Proteus in 2023 has included:

- 13 training sessions with over 440 Proteus Partner participants trained in topics such as the business case for taking action on biodiversity and the use of Proteus data and tools.
- Bespoke new training modules, for example, on the value of wetlands, procurement and value chains.
- 330 hours of technical assistance from UNEP-WCMC experts, across topics ranging from data availability and interpretation, to Net Positive Impact and nature-positive strategies, to biodiversity-inclusive natural capital accounting.
- 56 technical queries resolved on biodiversity data and information resources.

Please get in touch with us to discuss your training and technical assistance needs in 2024.

 Access further information on how Proteus Partners can make use on [training](#) and [technical assistance](#).



# 3.1 Protected Areas

## World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Updates to the data for several countries have been made in Q4 2023, including:

- **Brazil:** Partial update completed in collaboration with the Government of Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, including addition of 442 new protected area records and tabular data updated/verified for a further 1,973 protected area records.
- **United States of America:** Update for protected area data from the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PADUS 2.1). This included addition of data for 11,057 sites, 40,088 updated site boundaries, and removal of 2,880 records. Overall there are 51,185 polygon and 59 point records in the WDPA for the USA.
- **Kuwait:** Complete update of protected areas data for Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwait Environment Public Authority. This included addition of data for five protected areas, and updates to reflect that 'Sulaibikhat Gulf Beach (Al-Doha) Natural Reserve (North & South)' has been split into two separate protected areas. The boundaries of the 'Umm Al-Maradim Island', 'Qaruh Island' and 'Kubber Island' have also been updated.

Number of countries updated	8
Net change in records	+10,116
Percent of records updated or validated	19%



Point of Contact  
Jack Sutton

# 3.2 Protected Areas

## Protected Planet Initiative

### 2023 events and outputs:

- The Protected Planet team led two capacity building workshops aimed at supporting the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across the countries of the Western Balkans and Central Asia, including Kazakhstan. The workshops provided a space to deliver important technical information around Target 3 to countries government participants as well as an environment for country participants to share their knowledge and experiences around the process of delivering Target 3.
- Published [an academic paper](#) presenting an updated view on how privately protected areas are currently contributing to Target 3 and how they could potentially help countries achieve Target 3.



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# 4.1 Marine

## Data improvements and updates

### Ocean+ Habitats statistics

- Updated in line with updates to the World Database on Protected Areas, so the most up-to-date information is available to users.

## Marine networks

### Global Seagrass mapping

- To accelerate our efforts to strengthen global seagrass mapping data it is confirmed that we will facilitate a workshop at the World Seagrass Conference in Naples in June 2024 in conjunction with the University of Queensland and Smithsonian.

### International Coral Reef Initiative adhoc reef restoration committee

- UNEP-WCMC has become co-chair of this committee helping to unify and coordinate global coral restoration efforts.



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Rowana Walton

# 4.2 Marine

## Connectivity and Renewables

Ongoing work exploring the impacts of offshore wind energy developments on marine migratory species, including:

- Participating in the interim meeting of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) Energy Taskforce.
- This was a chance to present our ongoing work on connectivity and renewables, and to hear updates from other Energy Taskforce Members and Observers to ensure their broad and latest thinking is reflected in our Proteus work.



# 5.1 Resources

## Technical Brief - Business and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

This brief explored the potential contributions of business to the delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- As part of the “whole-of-society” approach envisaged under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, businesses have a key role to play in contributing to its implementation and success, for example through reducing pressures on biodiversity and contributing to positive outcomes for nature.
- When considering their contribution, businesses should consider the 23 targets holistically and look to complement and enhance national efforts.
- Businesses should also align their approaches with the cross-cutting considerations and ensure their decisions and commitments are science-based.



 Access the [technical brief](#)



# 5.2 Resources

## Horizon Scan - Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

This webinar explored the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, its status and implications for the private sector.

- The monitoring framework places an emphasis on national monitoring and data collection.
- There may be opportunities for businesses to contribute information towards national monitoring, notably for Target 15 and other metrics that companies may use to monitor impacts, risks and dependencies on biodiversity.
- Some countries might not adopt the headline indicators and so may collate different types of information.



The cover of a report titled "Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" by Proteus. The Proteus logo is at the top. The title is in the center. Below the title, it says "Natasha Ali, Policy, UNEP-WCMC" and "9 NOVEMBER 2023".

 Access the [recording and slides](#)



# 5.3 Resources

## Horizon Scan - Biodiversity credits: insights, challenges and opportunities

This webinar focused on the fast-developing biodiversity credit market, and implications for businesses.

- Biodiversity credits are emerging as a potential avenue for directing financial resources towards conservation and restoration projects.
- The market is still in its early stages and there are many unresolved uncertainties. Key definitions, methodologies and safeguarding principles are still in development.
- You can learn more about WEF’s biodiversity credit Initiative and how to engage with their Frontrunners Coalition [here](#). Information on the Biodiversity Credits Alliance’s (BCA) work and how to engage with the BCA Forum can be found [here](#).



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Biodiversity credits: insights, challenges and opportunities

Maria Antonova, Nature-based Solutions, UNEP-WCMC

Alessandro Valentini, Specialist, Sustainable Finance, WEF

Manesh Lacoul, Global Coordinator, Biodiversity Credit Alliance

31 OCTOBER 2023

 Access the [recording and slides](#)

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# 5.4 Resources

## Horizon Scan - Align recommendations: updates and next steps

This webinar discussed the latest guidance on aligning accounting approaches for nature developed under the EU Align project.

- The [recommendations](#) comprise of a set of principles and technical criteria that define ‘what’ elements of biodiversity should be measured and ‘how’ this should be done in different business contexts.
- Additional guidance has also been released on good and best practice criteria for implementing the recommendations at the [site-level](#) and across [supply chains](#).
- Upcoming work will focus on measuring contributions to nature-positive outcomes, supplementary guidance for biodiversity impact pathways, finance sector guidance and training modules.



 Access the [recording and slides](#)

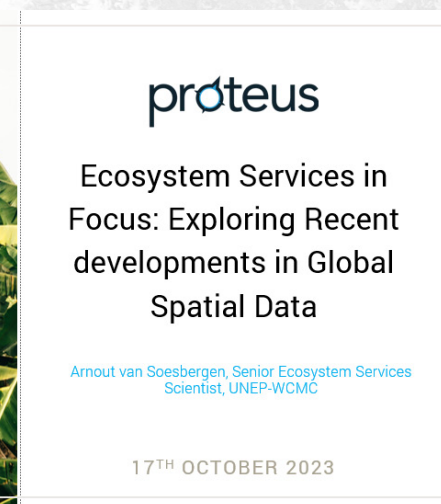


# 5.5 Resources

## Data Forum - Ecosystem Services in Focus: Exploring Recent developments in Global Spatial Data

This webinar explored recent work on global-scale ecosystem service mapping, including:

- [Chaplin-Kramer et al's \(2022\)](#) analysis of critical natural assets extent and location, with insights on the number of people benefiting from, and living within these areas.
- [Willcock et al's \(2023\)](#) estimate of uncertainty in ecosystem service models to produce consensus-based global maps.
- [Neugarten et al's \(2024\)](#) work on using development potential data to map critical areas for biodiversity and people.
- These data can be used to screen for areas important for ecosystem service delivery, assess the scale and scope of dependencies on ecosystem services, and better understand consequences of impacts on nature for local communities.



 Access the [recording and slides](#)

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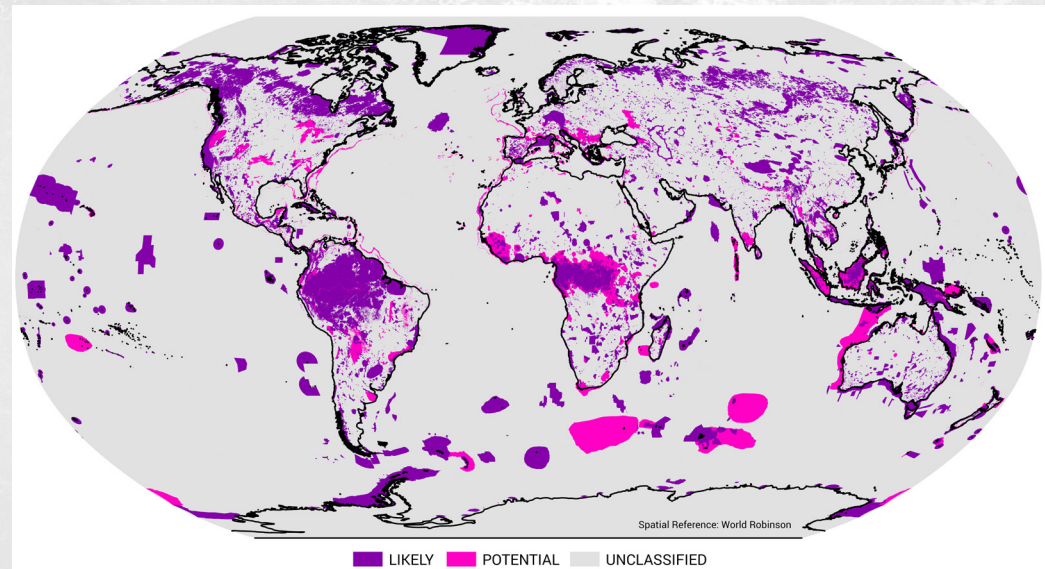
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Aime Rankin

# 5.6 Resources

## Data Forum - Critical Habitat Screening layer 2.0

This webinar launched the updated version (2.0) of the global Critical Habitat Screening layer.

- New and updated data are included, such as for Tropical Moist Forests, Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Intact Forest Landscapes.
- The updated layer has increased alignment with the most recent version of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) [Guidance Note 6](#).
- We welcome your feedback on the updated layer, which will be used in our ongoing work to maintain and provide further updates to the layer.



 Access the [recording and slides](#)

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Sebastian Dunnett

# 6 Publications

- **Nature positive for business: Developing a common approach.**  
*IUCN IMEC (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **TNFD in a box: [Board Level Overview](#), [Nature-Business Nexus](#), [Overview and Recommendations](#).**  
*TNFD (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **TNFD Sector Draft Sector Guidance: [Oil and gas](#), [Metals and mining](#), and [Electric utilities and power generators](#).**  
*TNFD (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Measuring and valuing biodiversity at [site level](#) and [across supply chains](#)**  
*Align (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Measuring ecosystem condition - a primer for business**  
*Align (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control**  
*IPBES (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Discussion paper on conducting advanced scenario analysis.**  
*TNFD (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Why Key Biodiversity Areas are Important for Business.**  
*KBA Partnership (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Nature Strategy Handbook: A practical guide for business.**  
*Business for Nature (2023) – [Available here](#)*
- **Biodiversity Credits: A Guide to Support Early Use with High Integrity.**  
*WEF(2023) – [Available here](#)*

# 7.1 Events

## Business for Nature consultation on policy recommendations

Proteus Partners can provide input to Business for Nature's updated policy recommendations to governments.

Business for Nature is updating its foundational high-level [policy recommendations](#). It is seeking input from businesses to creating an updated set of recommendations for policies needed by businesses to support effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Businesses can provide views on up to 60 policy asks:

- Provide your input through the online survey [here](#)
- A [pdf version](#) of the full survey is available to help collate your input before submitting
- You can choose to provide input on as many or as few policy asks as you like
- The consultation runs until **1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**.

# 7.2 Events

## Proteus Partner Events

- 24 Jan 2024** Webinar: Nature positive for business: developing approach
- Q1 2024** Data Forum on IBAT Disclosure Report
- Q1 2024** Data Forum on navigating the landscape of disclosure initiatives
- 1 - 3 July 2024** 1<sup>st</sup> Nature Action Dialogues and Proteus Annual Meeting

## External Events

- 23 -25 Jan. 2024** Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Kunming-Montreal GBF
- 26 Feb - 1 Mar. 2024** 6<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)
- Apr. 2024** Ipieca Week
- 21 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2024** 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the CBD
- 11 - 24 Nov. 2024** 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the UNFCCC

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