

Proteus Quarterly Update

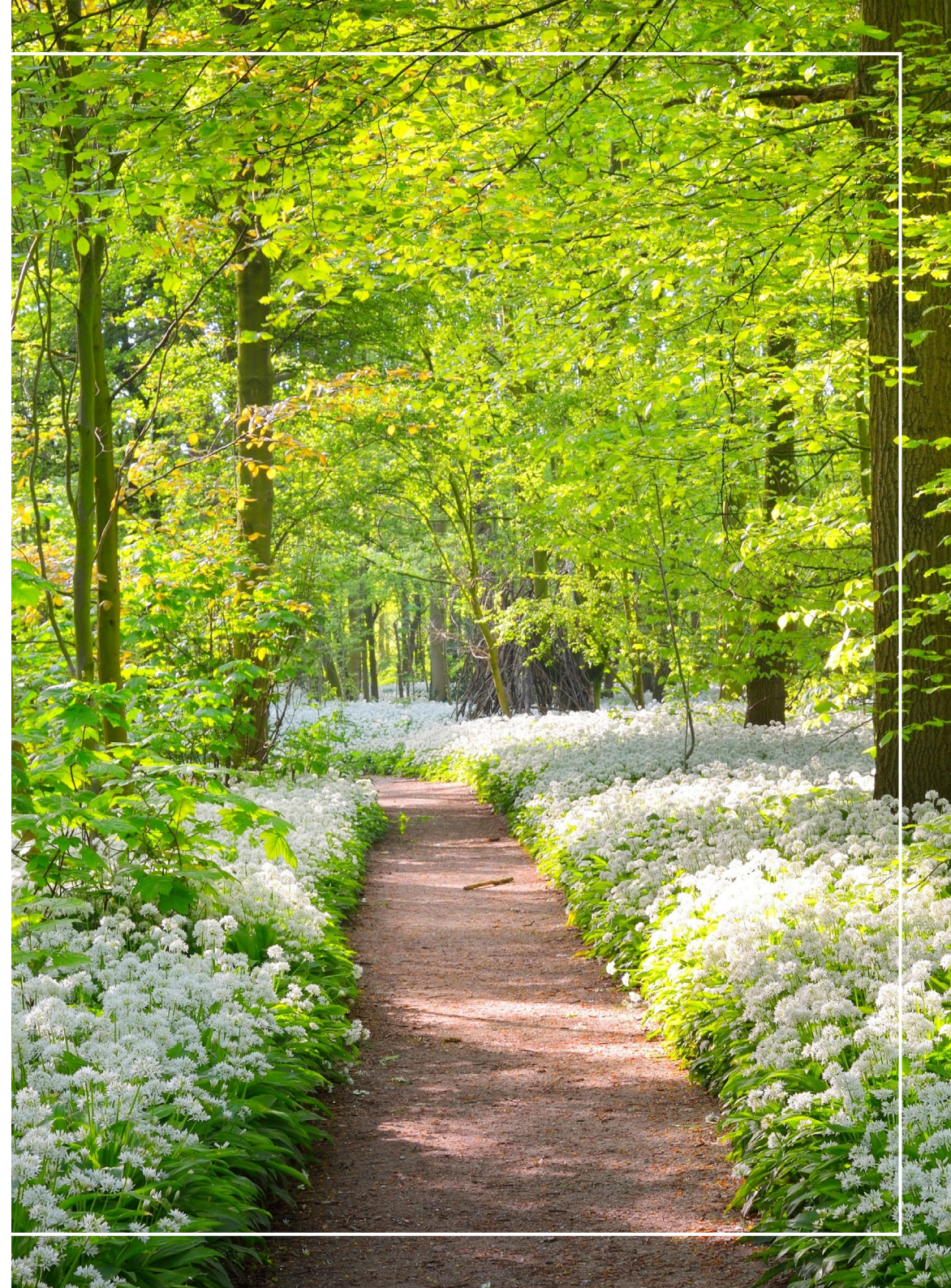
January to March 2024

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

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1.1 Highlights

Proteus Mid-phase Report

The Mid-Phase Report outlines progress against the [current Proteus Strategy](#) and recognises the impact and achievements of the Proteus Partnership in its 2021-2025 phase to date.

- Over the past three years, Proteus has helped Partners to recognise their responsibilities for nature through targeted communication materials, trainings and technical support. It has enabled significant advances in decision support tools and spatial biodiversity data that are used by Partners to address their impacts and dependencies on nature.
- Proteus has also helped Partners to understand and navigate evolving global policy agenda on nature and to understand emerging implications for businesses including how to contribute to delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Finally, we have sustained a beneficial partnership that enables peer-learning and collaboration across sectors.
- The Mid-Phase Report can be accessed on the Proteus website [here](#).

 Access [Proteus Mid-phase Report](#)

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Point of Contact
Stacey Baggaley

1.2 Highlights

Accountability for Nature: Comparison of Nature-Related Assessment and Disclosure Frameworks and Standards

UNEP FI published the *Accountability for Nature* report co-authored by UNEP FI and UNEP-WCMC in January 2024.

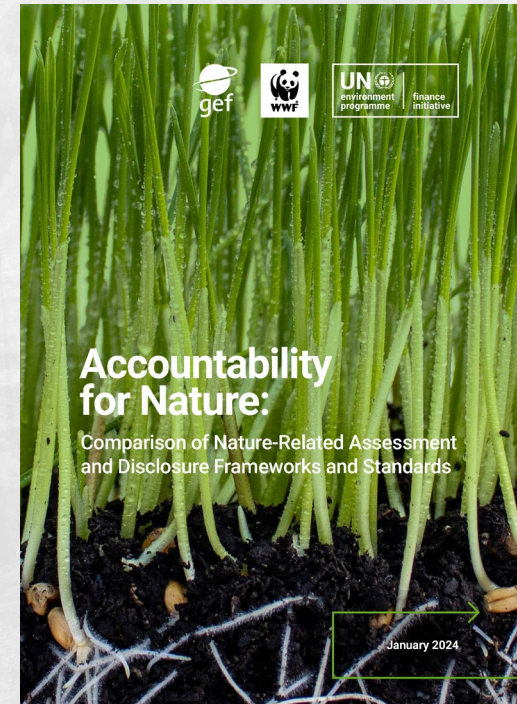
- The report provides an overview of the key methodological and conceptual trends among corporate assessment and disclosure frameworks and standards on biodiversity and nature. It covers seven leading standards, frameworks and systems for assessment and disclosure on nature-related issues, including:

CDP disclosure system
European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS)
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards
International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) Standards
Natural Capital Protocol
Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) target setting guidance
Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework

- A Proteus horizon scan webinar took place on 18 April 2024 to present the comparative research that the report is based on.

 Access the [report](#), [slides](#) and [webinar recording](#)

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Felix Tin

1.3 Highlights

UNEA-6

The sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) took place from 26 February to 1 March 2024 under the theme *Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution*.

- A total of [15 resolutions](#) were adopted, covering management of metals, mineral resources, chemicals and waste, integrated water resource management to tackle water stress, sustainable lifestyles, rehabilitation of degraded lands and waters, and more.
- Some key reports launched at UNEA-6 include [Global Resources Outlook 2024](#), [Global Waste Management Outlook 2024](#) and [Used Heavy-Duty Vehicles and the Environment Report](#).
- More than 10 of the 33 official side events for UNEA-6 were related to nature and biodiversity. These included a [side event](#) hosted by Fauna and Flora with IUCN, Ipieca and ICMM on ensuring that the energy transition contributes to a nature- and people-positive planet.
- UNEP-WCMC also moderated two side events: [moving forward with recommendations on consultations on nature-based solutions](#) and [the Convention on Migratory Species' contribution to addressing the triple planetary crisis](#).
- To find out more on UNEA-6, please access the Proteus Partners update [here](#).

 Access the [Proteus Partners update on UNEA-6](#)

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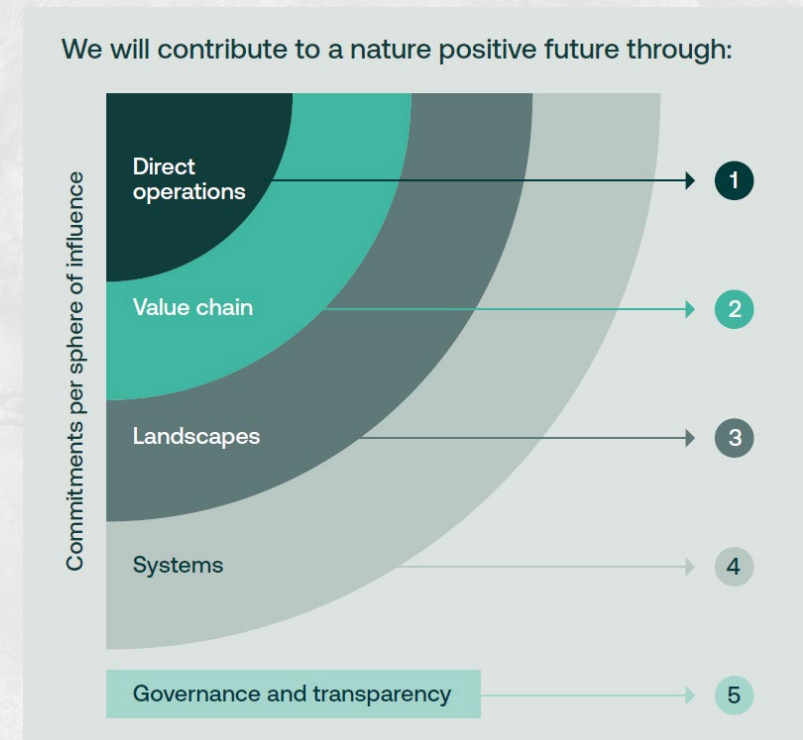
Point of Contact
Alfred Muge

1.4 Highlights

ICMM Nature Position Statement

The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) has released an updated position statement addressing members' approach to contributing to a nature-positive future, guided by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- The commitments apply from 1 January 2024 to all ICMM members, covering a third of the global metals and mining industry.
- Commitments relate to members' direct operations and value chain, the landscapes and systems they operate within, and transparent disclosures.
- UNEP-WCMC and several Proteus Partner companies provided substantial technical input to development of the Position Statement.
- The Position Statement, including commitments, can be accessed online [here](#).



 Access the [Position Statement](#)

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Alex Ross

1.5 Highlights

TNFD Early Adopters

TNFD announced the first cohort of early adopters of the TNFD Recommendations at the 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum on 16 January 2024.

- This inaugural cohort of early adopters are organisations which intend to start making disclosures aligned with the TNFD Recommendations in their corporate reporting by the financial year 2024 or 2025. They include 320 companies across 46 countries.
- These organisations have signalled their intention to adopt the TNFD Recommendations and publish TNFD-aligned disclosures as part of their annual corporate reporting for FY2023, FY2024 or FY2025.
- The TNFD Early Adopters list can be accessed [here](#). It includes some Proteus Partner companies.
- Companies can register as TNFD Adopters by completing a form on the TNFD website. More information can be found [here](#).



Source: [TNFD \(2024\)](#)



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1.6 Highlights

GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024

The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) published a major revision to the GRI Biodiversity Standard on 25 January 2024.

GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024 updates, expands, and replaces GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016.

Aligning with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the standard will help organisations to better understand:

- which decisions and business practices lead to biodiversity loss,
- where in the value chain impacts occur,
- and how impacts can be managed.

UNEP-WCMC was pleased to be a part of the Technical Committee advising on the updates of the standard.

The new Biodiversity Standard is effective for reports or other materials published on or after 1 January 2026.

 Access [GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024](#)

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Felix Tin

1.7 Highlights

CMS COP & State of the World's Migratory Species Report

The first ever State of the World's Migratory Species report was launched at CMS COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The State of the World's Migratory Species report, developed by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, was launched at a meeting of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in February 2024.

The report provides the first ever global overview of the conservation status, main threats and actions needed to protect migratory species - information that is crucial for the effective conservation of these species.

The report finds that migratory species, which are essential to healthy ecosystems, are in decline but that the conservation and recovery of these species and their habitats is possible.

Global press media coverage: >3000 online articles in 46 languages and 107 countries.



 Access the [State of the World's Migratory Species Report](#)

1.8 Highlights

WEF Annual Meeting

The 54th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum took place from 15 - 19 January 2024 in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

During the Nature Positive Initiative Dinner at the meeting, WCMC CEO and Senior Representative of UNEP-WCMC Jonny Hughes participated in a panel on the journey to high integrity nature-positive outcomes, and emphasised three key messages:

- **Alignment:** The effect could be transformational if state and non-state actors align behind goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **Integrity and urgency:** Businesses must act with urgency to pull together insightful data on their impacts and dependencies on nature and set corporate nature targets and most importantly take action.
- **Support:** UNEP-WCMC develops knowledge and capacity for a nature-positive world, working in partnership with different actors and processes.

 Access recording of the [Nature Positive Initiative Dinner](#)

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1.9 Highlights

Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- The aim of the Bern III Conference was to explore cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Framework is broad in scope and recognises the importance of working together. MEAs recognise that there is mutual benefit to be had from working together at all levels to increase cooperation and look for synergy.
- The Bern III Conference brought together representatives of parties and secretariats from 69 countries and 16 MEAs including all the major biodiversity-related conventions, the three Rio conventions, and five MEAs from the chemicals and waste cluster. Conference co-chairs were from Mexico and Sweden, and it was convened by UNEP and supported financially by Switzerland and the UNEP Environment Fund.
- Participants recognised the significant work already being done to enhance cooperation at all levels, but also came up with a range of practical options for further enhancing cooperation which will be communicated to MEAs through various channels. Discussions were further enriched by case studies provided by countries, by MEA secretariats, by UN organisations, and by a range of other stakeholders.



Point of Contact
Jerry Harrison

2.1 Partnership Updates

Fortescue and ArcelorMittal

We are pleased to announce that Fortescue and ArcelorMittal have joined the Proteus Partnership in March and April respectively.

- Fortescue is one of the largest iron ore producers globally, with headquarters in Australia. It is working towards becoming an integrated green technology, energy, and metals company.
- ArcelorMittal is the second largest steel manufacturer in the world, with vertically integrated mining operations and headquarters in Luxembourg. The company bridges two key sectors that are very relevant for the Proteus Partnership: critical minerals and infrastructure.
- This brings the total number of Proteus Partners to 16.

AngloAmerican	ArcelorMittal	BHP	BP
Chevron	ENGIE	ENI	Equinor
Fortescue	Hydro	Newmont	Repsol
RioTinto	Shell	Teck	TotalEnergies



Point of Contact
Stacey Baggaley

2.2 Partnership Updates

Training and Technical Assistance in Q1 2024

We continue to provide ongoing support to Proteus Partners. Throughout Q1 2024, Proteus delivered training and technical assistance to support Partners in the following ways:

- Three trainings were delivered to 15 participants on defining effective business leadership within the context of a nature-positive and socially just energy transition, as well as on how to use the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).
- Newly developed training modules are now available to all Proteus Partners. These modules encompass topics such as procurement and value chains, as well as the TNFD framework and its implications for businesses.
- Proteus Partners accessed over 60 hours of technical assistance from experts at UNEP-WCMC.
- More than 21 data queries were successfully resolved.

Partners interested in accessing training or technical assistance across 2024 are encouraged to get in touch with us.

 Access [training and technical assistance flyers](#)

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Point of Contact
Bálint Ternyik

3.1 Protected Areas

World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Updates to the data for several countries have been made in Q1 2024, including:

- **South Africa:** Complete update to the data for South Africa in collaboration with the South African Protected Areas Database. One protected area record was removed and seven protected area records were added, including [Mpilo Nature Reserve](#), [Zimanga Private Nature Reserve](#), [Kube Yini Nature Reserve](#), [Lost Valley Nature Reserve](#), [Nirodha Nature Reserve](#), [Umgavusa Protected Environment](#) and [Denleigh Protected Environment](#).
- **Oman:** Partial update to the data for Oman in collaboration with the Environment Authority, Planning & Studies Department and Environment Authority, Planning & Environment Indicators Department of the Sultanate of Oman. The update involved changes to the tabular data for 30 sites (28 protected areas and two other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), to reflect these status values being legally recognised by the Government of Oman.
- **Korea, Republic of:** Partial update for national-level protected area records in the Republic of Korea resulting in an increase of approximately 60km² of protected area coverage.

Number of countries updated	10
Net increase in records	200
Percent of records updated or validated	6%



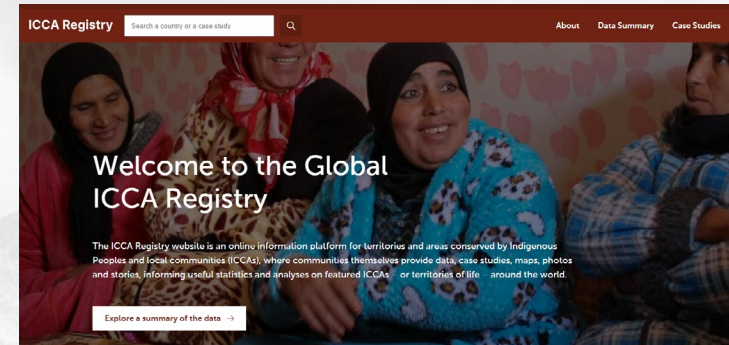
Point of Contact
Jack Sutton

3.2 Protected Areas

Protected Planet Initiative

Other updates:

- **OECMs:** The Government of Oman has recognised two OECMs, which are the first OECMs recognised for the country. The total number of countries that have reported OECMs now stands at a total of 10.
- **ICCA:** The [ICCA Registry](#) database was published online. This data is currently not available for use by commercial entities, but UNEP-WCMC will continue to work, through engagement with data providers, towards making this information more accessible as part of our open data approach.
- UNEP-WCMC visited Libreville, Gabon, to deliver a series of technical meetings on OECMs and protected areas. The mission was designed to further discussions from a previous visit to Gabon in 2022, in which three key areas of support from UNEP-WCMC were identified: technical guidance on OECMs, mapping protected area boundaries, and support on the national biodiversity law.



Point of Contact
Jack Sutton

4 IBAT


Data Update

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

- The latest update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species now includes 157,190 species, of which 44,016 are threatened with extinction.
- The update completes the first comprehensive assessment of the world's freshwater fish species, revealing that 25% (3,086 out of 14,898 assessed species) are at risk of extinction. At least 17% of threatened freshwater fish species are affected by climate change, including decreasing water levels, rising sea levels causing seawater to move up rivers, and shifting seasons. This compounds threats from pollution, which impacts 57% of freshwater fish species at risk of extinction, dams and water extraction, which affect 45%, overfishing, which threatens 25%, and invasive species and disease, which harm 33%.

IBAT Country Profiles

- The annual update to the IBAT Country Profiles was released in January 2024.
- The IBAT Country Profiles provide information including 1) The Red List Index depicting trends in overall extinction risk for species by country, 2) lists of the most pertinent threats to the species in each country, and 3) protected area and Key Biodiversity Area coverage statistics per country, among other information.

 Access [IBAT](#)

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HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNERSHIP
UPDATES

PROTECTED
AREAS

IBAT

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS

CALENDAR



Point of Contact
Parthav Mistry

5.1 Resources

Data Forum: Exploring the Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRAs) initiative and dataset

This Data Forum explored the [Important Shark and Ray Areas \(ISRAs\)](#) and [Important Marine Mammal Areas \(IMMAs\)](#) datasets, and their implications for Proteus Partners.

The session covered:

- An overview of the ISRAs project and its key concepts and criteria.
- Guidance on interpreting and using ISRAs data.
- Relevance of this dataset for Proteus Partners.
- A short additional update on recent developments to the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) dataset.



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Exploring the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) initiative and dataset

Dr Rima Jabado (IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group)
Dr Giuseppe Notarbartolo Di Sciarra (IMMA Network)
Dr Gill Braulik (IMMA Network)

28TH MARCH 2024

 Access the [recording and slides](#)

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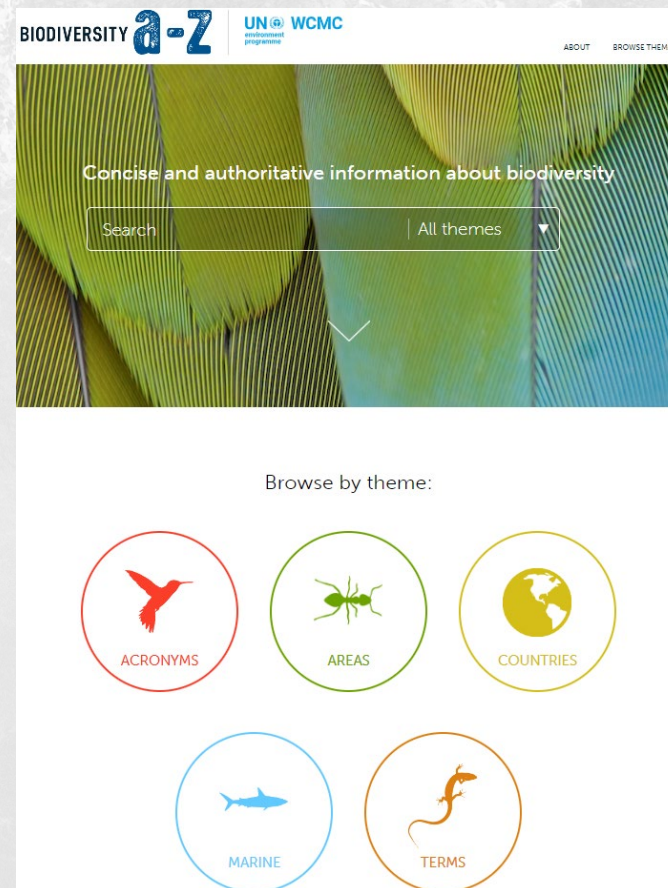
Point of Contact
Aime Rankin

5.2 Resources

Biodiversity A-Z updates

The Biodiversity A-Z has received new updates

- The Biodiversity A-Z is an online tool providing concise and authoritative information about biodiversity and biodiversity-related terminology. It has been updated in Q1 2024 to include 17 new terms, including [biodiversity credits](#), [blockchain](#), [conservation easement](#), [environmental human rights defender](#) and [greenwashing](#).
- Please get in touch with the Proteus team if you have suggestions for new terms and acronyms you would like to see on Biodiversity A-Z.



 Access [Biodiversity A-Z](#)

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Aime Rankin

5.3 Resources

Technical Brief: Updates to the global Critical Habitat screening layer

UNEP-WCMC produced an updated Version 2.0 of the Critical Habitat screening layer in December last year. This technical brief provides a succinct overview of the updates to the layer.

There are three main differences between Versions 1.0 and 2.0 of the layer:

- The selection of datasets underpinning the layer has been reviewed and updated.
- The alignment of datasets with Critical Habitat criteria in Version 2.0 of the layer has been updated based on the 2019 version of International Finance Corporation Guidance Note 6.
- New fields have been added to the raster attribute table recording the features and Critical Habitat criteria under which each area is triggered.

Proteus Partners can access Version 2.0 of the Critical Habitat screening layer through the UNEP-WCMC Resources website, [here](#), using their Proteus website log in details.

 Access the [Technical Brief](#)

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Alfred Muge

5.4 Resources

GRI 14: Mining Sector 2024


The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) released a global standard to address the sustainability impacts of the mining sector on 5 February 2024.

This fourth addition to GRI's Sector Standard series addresses 25 topics that are likely material for companies in the sector by:

- Setting expectations for site-level transparency that reflect local impacts, to help stakeholders assess impacts and risks by location and specific minerals.
- Covering critical themes that range from emissions to waste, human rights to land and resource rights, climate change to biodiversity, anti-corruption to community engagement.
- Introducing three topics not previously addressed by GRI yet are of specific relevance to mining firms: tailings management, artisanal and small-scale mining, and operating in conflict zones.

The Standard identifies biodiversity as a likely material topic (topic 14.4), discusses the impacts of mining on biodiversity, and lists the biodiversity-related disclosures identified as relevant to the sector with reference to [GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024](#).

The Standard enters into effect for reporting on 1 January 2026, with early adoption being encouraged.

 Access the [GRI 14: Mining Sector 2024](#)



Point of Contact
Alex Ross

6 Publications

➤ **Accountability for Nature: Comparison of Nature-Related Assessment and Disclosure Frameworks and Standards.**

UNEP-WCMC & UNEP-FI (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **State of the World's Migratory Species.**

UNEP-WCMC (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **Outcomes of UNEA-6.**

UNEP (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **Global Resources Outlook 2024.**

UNEP & IRP (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **Global Risks Report 2024.**

World Economic Forum (2024). – [Available here](#)

➤ **Roles of the Red List of Ecosystems in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**

Nicholson et al (2024). – [Available here](#)

➤ **The global distribution of plants used by humans.**

Pironon et al (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **Why it matters how biodiversity is measured in environmental valuation studies compared to conservation science.**

Strange et al (2024) – [Available here](#)

➤ **Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction.**

Turner et al (2024) – [Available here](#).

Please note that marine STAR 50km² version is available online and 5km² will be made available in IBAT.

7 Events

Proteus Partner Events

23 May 2024 (**Rescheduled**) Horizon Scan on insights from the first-ever “State of the World’s Migratory Species Report”

Q2 2024 Technical Brief on offshore wind energy and migratory species
Horizon Scan on Every Job is a Nature Job - Enhancing procurement with nature

1 - 3 July 2024 Proteus Annual Meeting

Q3 2024 Technical Brief on setting biodiversity inclusive targets
Technical Brief on nature-based solutions for adaptation
Data Forum on IBAT Disclosure Report (TNFD and GRI)

Q4 2024 Technical Brief on connectivity and renewables guidelines

External Events

21 Oct. - 1 Nov. 2024 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the CBD in Colombia

11 - 24 Nov. 2024 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the UNFCCC

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