



Proteus Quarterly Update

October to December 2021

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

proteus

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1.1 Highlights

Proteus Annual Meeting

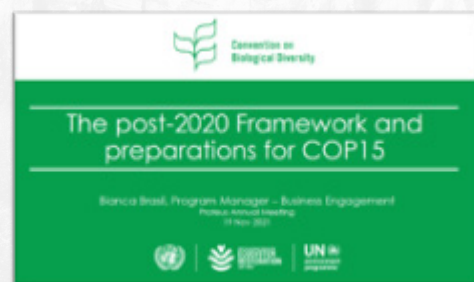
Bringing Partners together to discuss the latest thinking on biodiversity and nature.

- The meeting was held remotely from 18th – 24th November, with all 14 Proteus Partner companies represented.
- 24 speakers led 10 hours of discussion, including: Business Transformation and the Energy Transition; Nature Policy; Tools and Methodologies; Nature-based Solutions Multiple Benefits.
- A workshop on 'Communicating the Business Case for Nature' was held, as well as an interactive Data Forum on 'Restoration Data Priorities Across Marine and Terrestrial Realms'.
- Thank you to everyone who participated!

 [Access Proteus Annual Meeting slides and recordings](#)

 [Access Proteus Annual Meeting Report](#)





Point of Contact
Aime Rankin



HIGHLIGHTS

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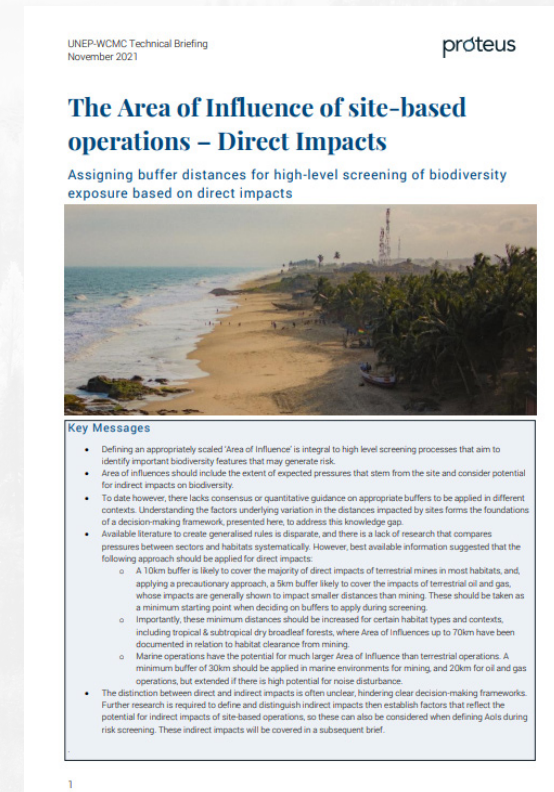
CALENDAR

1.2 Highlights

Ongoing support to Partner companies

During Q4 2021 Proteus Partners benefited from:

- 2 Horizon Scanning webinars on [Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction](#) and [the current state of corporate biodiversity measurement, disclosure and target setting](#).
- 2 Data Forum sessions on [company biodiversity screening tools](#) and [restoration data priorities across marine and terrestrial realms](#).
- 2 Technical Briefs on the [area of influence for direct impacts of site-based operations](#) and the [global energy transition](#).
- 3 Trainings with a total of 65 attendees.
- 70 hours of Technical Assistance.
- 17 resolved data queries.
- 65 countries and territories updated in the WDPA, including 3 Proteus priority countries.



Point of Contact
Alex Ross

1.3 Highlights

CBD COP15: Part 1

The first part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity took place from 11th-15th October 2021.

- This part of the COP was largely administrative and ceremonial; however, the [Kunming Declaration](#) was adopted, giving a sense of political direction for the negotiations ahead for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Key issues will start being negotiated during the upcoming meetings of the subsidiary bodies and working group in [March 2022](#) in Geneva. The second part of COP15, where the post-2020 framework will be adopted, will take place in Kunming, China in 2022.



Access a high level summary of the outcomes

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UNEP-WCMC Proteus Partners update
October 2021

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Proteus Partners update: CBD COP15 part 1

The first part of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the High-Level Segment, took place from 11th-15th October 2021. The session looked to build and maintain political momentum in support of the upcoming negotiations to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and included interventions made by heads of state, ministers, and other leaders. Business for Nature also issued an open letter urging world leaders to deliver a meaningful and actionable Global Biodiversity Framework. Key messages and implications for business include:

This part of the COP was largely administrative and ceremonial. The key focus and outcomes are around the opening up of official business for COP15 and the internal workings of the CBD and its Secretariat. This included approval of the budget, receipt of reports from the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, and the transfer from the COP14 Presidency (Egypt) to the Presidency of COP15 (China).

The Kunming Declaration was adopted, giving a sense of political direction for the negotiations during the upcoming meetings of the subsidiary bodies in January 2022 in Geneva, as well as for the 2nd part of the COP15, which is currently scheduled for April/May 2022. The declaration wasn't negotiated text, and doesn't include any major new initiatives or significant shift in emphasis. But it does add to a sense of momentum going into the main COP15 negotiations. Key features continue to include:

- A balance across the 3 objectives of the CBD (relating to conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing from genetic resources)
- Increasing coverage and effectiveness of area-based conservation (including both protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures)
- Increasing use of nature-based solutions within the context of what are called 'ecosystem-based approaches' in the context of the CBD
- Reducing or eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies
- Coherence with other environmental agendas, including the UN [Climate Change](#) and UN [Land Degradation](#) conventions, and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The substance of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework will be negotiated in Geneva in January. This first part of COP15 was not intended to address substantive issues such as the framework and therefore did not present opportunities to explore the proposed targets. Those negotiations will continue in January, in person at the resumed session of the 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The post 2020 global biodiversity framework is still expected to contain a specific target related to business. Target 15 of the first draft of the framework included the following wording:

All businesses (public and private, large, medium and small) assess and report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, from local to global, and progressively reduce negative impacts, by at least half and increase positive impacts, reducing biodiversity-related risks to businesses and moving towards the full sustainability of extraction and production practices, sourcing and supply chains, and use and disposal.



Point of Contact
Daniela Guaras



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1.4 Highlights

UNFCCC COP26

The 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, took place in Glasgow from 1st-13th November 2021. Despite not being the focus of the official agenda, nature featured prominently in side events, initiatives, declarations, and commitments.

The Glasgow Climate Pact was adopted, which includes the strongest language on nature ever used in an UNFCCC decision:

- The Pact emphasises “the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems ... to achieve the long-term global goal of the Convention”.
- The Pact calls upon Parties to “[accelerate] efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies”, which aligns with calls for environmentally damaging subsidies to be phased-out and redirected toward incentivising net zero and nature-positive outcomes.
- The importance of adaptation to climate change was also highlighted in the cover agreement. Though not yet mentioned in the text, there are strong links to nature, with nature-based solutions being a promising pathway towards adaptation & mitigation of climate change while delivering multiple benefits for nature and people.



[Access Proteus Partner Update on COP26](#)



Point of Contact
Clementine Fournier

2.1 Protected Areas

World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Several data updates have been made to the WDPA including:

- **Panama:** A full update of protected areas in Panama, including the marine protected area Cordillera de Coiba which has been extended from 17,213 km² to 67,909 km².
- **Jamaica:** A partial update of protected areas in Jamaica for the first time since 2010, including 31 new terrestrial sites.
- **Saint Helena:** Updated a proposed marine protected area totalling over 687,000 km² around the UK overseas territory of Tristan de Cunha, which has now formally come into law.

Number of countries updated	67
Net increase in records	4,028
Percent of records updated or validated	43%



Point of Contact
Jessica Stewart

2.2 Protected Areas

World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Other updates: 2021 reporting, capacity building, OECMSs.

- Published a [paper](#) on the importance of privately protected areas in global conservation.
- Delivered webinars and discussion sessions on privately protected areas and comprehensive data reporting at the [Third Congress of the International Land Conservation Network](#).
- Co-hosted a series of workshops on Protected and Conserved Area Effectiveness Indicators, and how to better monitor effectiveness of protected areas and OECMSs.

Privately Protected Areas: Missing Pieces of the Global Conservation Puzzle

Heather C. Bingham¹, James A. Fitzsimons^{2,3}, Brent A. Mitchell⁴, Kent H. Redford^{5,6} and Sue Stolton⁷

¹United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, United Kingdom

²The Nature Conservancy, Carlton, VIC, Australia

³School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, Burwood, VIC, Australia

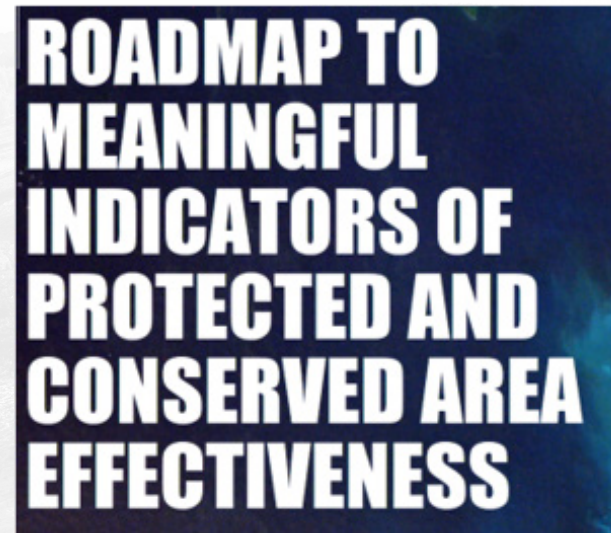
⁴Quebec Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment, Ipswich, MA, United States

⁵Archipelago Consulting, Portland, ME, United States

⁶Department of Environmental Studies, University of New England, Biddeford, ME, United States

⁷Equilibrium Research, Bristol, United Kingdom

Protected areas are an essential component of global conservation efforts. Although extensive information is available on the location of protected areas governed by governments, data on privately protected areas remain elusive at the global level. These are areas governed by private individuals and groups—ranging from families to religious institutions to companies—that meet IUCN’s definition of a protected area: *a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*. As the world’s governments prepare to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework to guide conservation over the next decade, we argue that, without complete data on privately protected areas, they do so without a vital piece of the puzzle.



Point of Contact
Jessica Stewart


3.1 IBAT



IBAT

IBAT dataset updates (in addition to WDPA).

- In November, the release of the **World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas** comprised 16,356 confirmed KBAs. Myanmar received a countrywide review of karst sites identifying 22 new sites. The Tropical Andes received a multi-country review focusing on plants and reptiles and updated 47 assessments, as well as identifying 52 new global KBAs.
- In December, the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** was updated. See [IUCN Press Release here](#).
- This release included the first comprehensive assessment of the world's dragonflies and damselflies. The update brought the number of species at risk of extinction to over 40,000 for the first time. The IUCN Red List now includes 142,577 species of which 40,084 are threatened with extinction.

 [Access IBAT](#)

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Point of Contact
Edward Ellis


3.2 IBAT



IBAT

IBAT hit 10,000 users.

- In December 2021, IBAT hit a major milestone of 10,000 user accounts.
- IBAT has seen a recent surge in users from a range of different sectors reflecting a greater interest in biodiversity data from the private sector than ever before.
- These including finance (development finance, banking, investment funds etc.), energy and extractives, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, consumer packaged goods and more....

 [Access IBAT](#)

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Edward Ellis

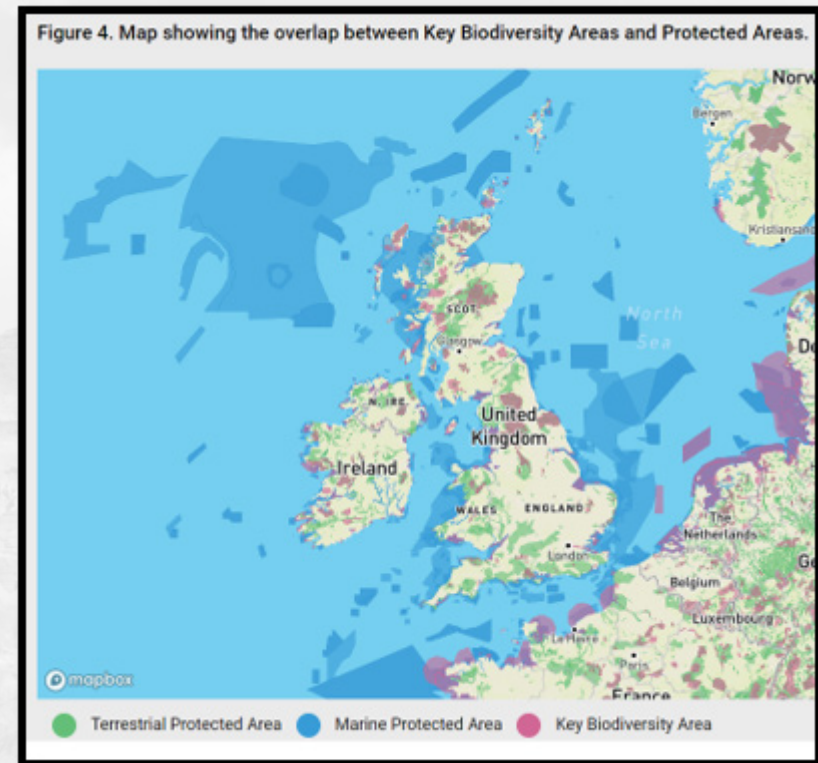
3.3 IBAT



IBAT

IBAT Country Profiles.

- IBAT released the 2021 update to the [Country Profiles](#).
- IBAT Country Profiles provide nationally relevant data that are disaggregated from IBAT's three core global datasets, to support conservation planning and reporting.
- BirdLife International, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC are the data providers for the Sustainable Development Goals (among other indicators) namely indicators [14](#) and [15](#) : 14.5.1, 15.1.2, 15.4.1 & 15.5.1.



Access IBAT



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Edward Ellis

4.1 Marine

New marine data and resources

Read our [Explanatory Note](#) to access and use new features in the Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) system.

- MiCO is an open-access system that generates standardised models that visualise the distribution of migratory species. These models increase our understanding of how marine migratory species use and connect the ocean and can inform operational risk assessments.
- Ocean+ supported work to improve the MiCO System to deliver tailored information in automated, useful formats for Proteus Partners.
- Proteus Partners can now access PDF reports that summarise connectivity model information for a chosen area and can directly download network models and associated spatial data.

 [Access the MiCO system](#)

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UNEP-WCMC Explanatory Note January 2022 **Ocean+ UN@ WCMC proteus MiCO**

Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO)

Now with updated functionality: how to access new features and download reports

Summary

- The Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) system provides models of the location, movements and important life history stages of marine migratory species such as whales and seabirds to inform their conservation.
- Proteus and Ocean+ have supported work to improve the MiCO system functionality – it now allows direct data downloads of area-use and network models, and PDF reports that summarise information for an area chosen by the user.
- This Explanatory Note describes how Proteus partners can access and use these new features.

What's new in the MiCO system?

Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO)¹ is an extensive open-access system that generates standardised models of the locations of marine migratory species' routes, important life history stages (e.g., foraging and breeding 'nodes') and seasonality of occurrence.

Impacts and liabilities in the marine realm are not static. The MiCO System represents a state-of-the-art approach to developing fit-for-purpose, actionable knowledge on marine connectivity in the ocean and can support Proteus partners' understanding of operational and environmental risks.

Analyse network models offline

Using animal tracking data from around the world, MiCO produces network models composed of nodes (e.g. breeding sites; Figure 1) that visualize the distribution of migratory species. These models increase our understanding of how marine migratory species use and connect the ocean and can inform operational risk assessments. The updates to the MiCO system allow users to download network models and associated spatial data to better support offline analyses in any software environment.

Proteus and Ocean+ have supported an update to the functionality of the MiCO system so that information is efficiently delivered in automated, useful formats for businesses. Proteus partners can now access PDF reports that summarise connectivity model information for a chosen area and can directly download network models and associated spatial data.

This explanatory note introduces how partners can use the updated functionality of MiCO. The 'System help' section on the MiCO website provides further explanation on how to use the MiCO system and products².




Figure 1. MiCO System map showing a network model for albacore tuna in the North-Atlantic Ocean. Source: <https://miico.eco/system/> (December 2021)

¹Migratory Connectivity in the Ocean (MiCO) <https://miico.eco/>

²MiCO System help: <https://miico.eco/system/help/>




Point of Contact
Sara Pruckner

4.2 Marine

Ongoing work to improve the Global Distribution of Coral Reefs dataset

Conversations with Allen Coral Atlas & the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) to collaborate on updated & combined datasets.

- [The Status of Coral Reefs of the World](#) report was published in Q4 2021.
- The report used the Ocean+ Global Distribution of Coral Reefs layer as the baseline, supplemented with other datasets.
- Conversations with GCRMN are ongoing to update this data layer in coordination with the report's findings.
- We are having further discussions with Allen Coral Atlas to combine datasets to communicate uncertainty and reflect the accuracy of different data collection methods. The results will be available via Ocean+ Habitats in the future.

 Access the Global Distribution of Coral Reefs
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Point of Contact
Sara Pruckner

4.3 Marine

Publication in Frontiers in Marine Science: Establishing the Foundation for the Global Observing System for Marine Life

A collaboration among 38 research institutes, universities & NGOs, including UNEP-WCMC, to gain clarity on where, when and how data on marine life is collected.

- A survey was conducted to map out global data collection efforts. 203 active programmes that have been sampling systematically for more than 5 years have been identified.
- Only 7% of the ocean surface area is regularly sampled, mostly concentrated in coastal regions of North America, Europe and Australia.
- The results can help Proteus Partners to screen data collection efforts in and near their operation sites, to gain improved awareness of available data and identify gaps that could be plugged.
- The data will be used to update and improve habitat distribution datasets available via Ocean+.

 [Access publication](#)



Point of Contact
Sara Pruckner

5.1 Resources

Technical Brief: The Global Energy Transition

This technical brief considers the role of mining and energy companies in enabling a nature-positive energy transition.

- It provides recommendations for where Proteus Partners must act to minimise socio-environmental risks within their operations and supply chains to enable a responsible transition.

 Access Technical Brief

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UNEP-WCMC Technical Briefing
December 2021

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The Global Energy Transition

The role of mining and energy companies in enabling a nature positive energy transition

Key Messages

- The global energy transition will significantly increase demand for key metals and minerals.
- The surge in demand will open up new frontiers of mineral extraction and has the potential to exacerbate existing environmental and social risks in operations and along supply chains for mining companies and their customers such as renewable energy companies.
- If left unchecked, these material risks may slow clean energy deployment and imperil the nature positive transition needed to halt climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Recommendations on where Proteus Partners must act to minimise biodiversity-relevant risks within their operations and supply chains and enable a nature positive energy transition include:
 1. Integration of circular design principles and closed loop efforts in the production of energy assets
 2. Accelerate the adoption of net-gain approaches to mitigate site-based impacts
 3. Contribute to closing the knowledge gap on the ecological impacts of operating in new frontiers such as deep-sea mining
 4. Disclose footprint and adopt transparent, responsible supply chains supported by verified certification schemes and due diligence procedures
 5. Underpin biodiversity commitments with meaningful indicators based on sound and scientific criteria
 6. Gain more control over the compliance of social and environmental standards along the supply chain through e.g. vertical integration and partnerships
 7. Decarbonise operations and portfolios and divest from fossil fuels

Introduction

The threats posed by biodiversity loss and climate breakdown necessitate a global transformation to a nature positive economy. Key to this transformation will be the ongoing transition from an economy based on fossil fuels to one powered by renewable energy. The energy transition is key to achieving the goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2°C. The associated environmental and social challenges of the deployment of mineral-intensive clean energy technologies (box 1) must be harmonised with

increased resource extraction. Ignoring the related Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) concerns in operations and along supply chains will slow clean energy deployment and thus imperil the nature positive transition needed to halt climate change and biodiversity loss.

This Technical Briefing provides recommendations on where Proteus Partners must act to minimise socio-environmental risks within their operations and supply chains and enable a responsible energy transition.

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Point of Contact
Alex Ross

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5.2 Resources

Horizon Scanning Webinar: Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

Current negotiations on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty has operational implications for private sector involvement.

- UNEP-WCMC provided an introduction to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), highlighting current progress on the negotiations and the implications and relevance for private sector engagement.



[Access Horizon Scanning Webinar](#)



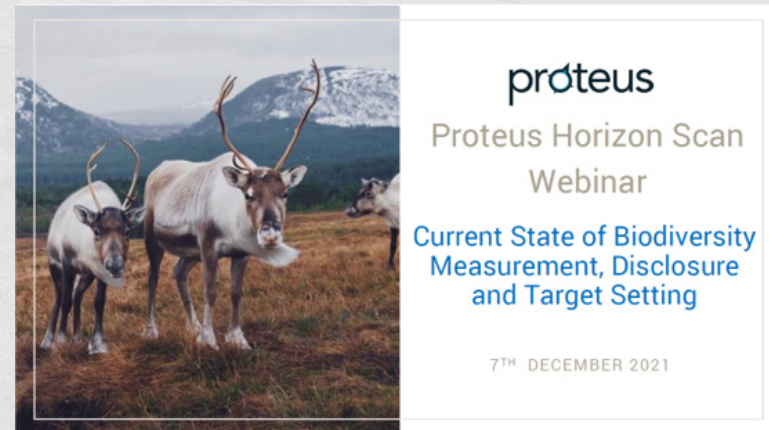
Point of Contact
Aime Rankin

5.3 Resources

Horizon Scanning Webinar: Current State of Corporate Biodiversity Measurement, Disclosure and Target Setting

UNEP-WCMC hosted a webinar on the Align project, Science-based Target Network and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure.

- The final Horizon Scan Webinar of 2021 provided an overview of the current state of biodiversity measurement, reporting, disclosure, followed with short introductions to Align project, SBTN and TNFD. The session ended with an engaging panel discussion where we explored how each of these link together and how businesses can get started now with these projects and initiatives.



 [Access Horizon Scanning Webinar](#)

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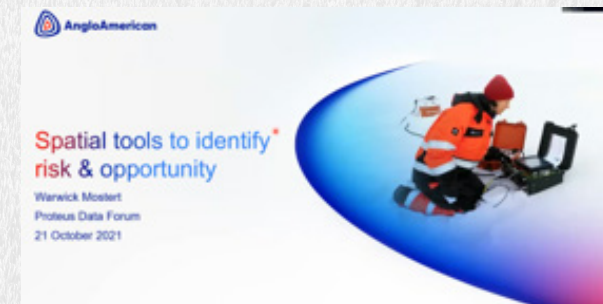
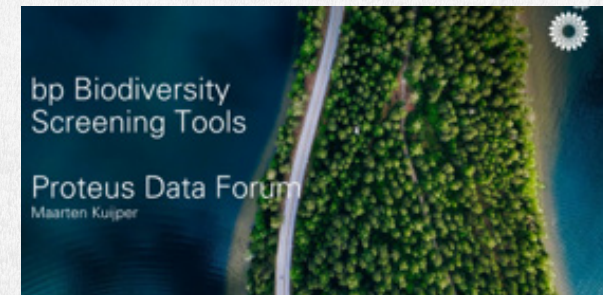
Point of Contact
Aime Rankin

5.4 Resources

Data Forum: Company Biodiversity Screening Tools

In this peer-to-peer learning session three Proteus Partners presented on the GIS tools they use for internal biodiversity screening. They covered:

- The biodiversity data used in the tools.
- Processes followed to analyse the data.
- How tool outputs influence company decisions.
- How biodiversity screening fits into wider organisational workflows.



 Access the recording

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Point of Contact
Alex Ross



5.5 Resources

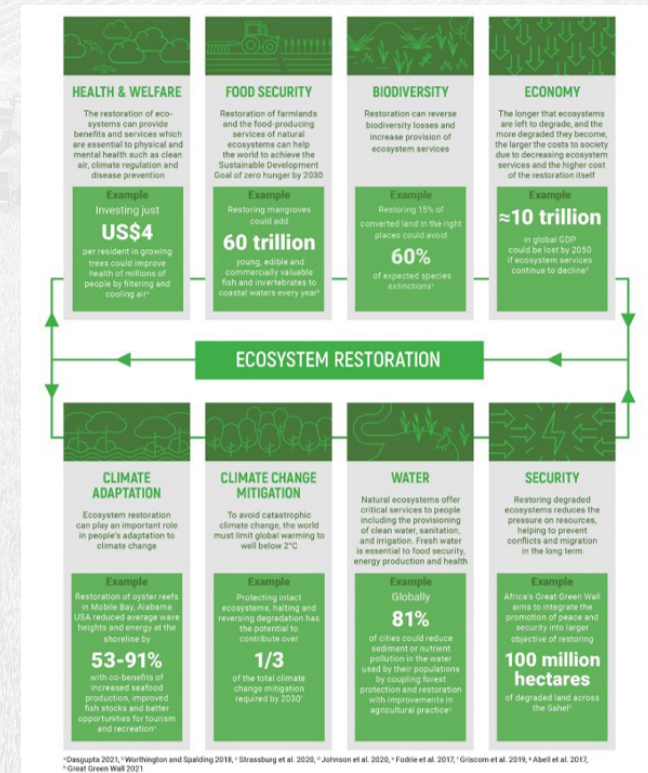
Data Forum: Restoration Data Priorities Across Marine and Terrestrial Realms

In this Data Forum, which was part of the Proteus 2021 Annual Meeting, we discussed:

- The existing data, platforms and tools to support company ecosystem restoration efforts.
- Outstanding company needs for ecosystem restoration data, and what UNEP-WCMC could prioritize in addressing these.
- These discussions will help to shape UNEP-WCMC's work on ecosystem restoration data, ensuring Proteus Partners can benefit as a key audience.

 Access the recording

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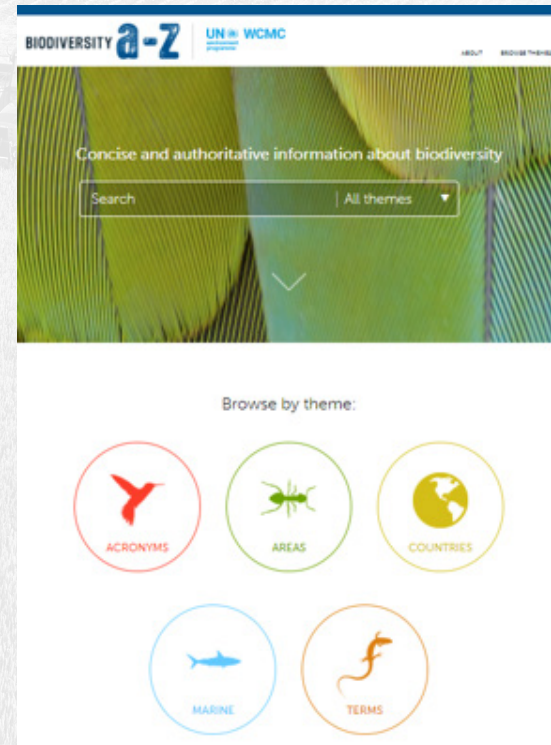
Point of Contact
Alex Ross

5.6 Resources

Updates to the Biodiversity A-Z

13 new terms and 22 new acronyms have been added to the Biodiversity A-Z, including:

- Definitions for prominent and emerging biodiversity issues – e.g. nature-positive, zoonosis, the conservation hierarchy, eDNA, etc...
- Short information paragraphs on Area of Influence and Natural Climate Solutions.
- Acronyms for reporting and disclose initiatives – e.g. SBTN, TNFD, ISSB, GRI, CSRD, CDSB, IFRS, NGFS, EFRAG, NFRD, etc...



Access the Biodiversity A-Z



Point of Contact
Aime Rankin

5.7 Resources

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Training

Responding to Partner interest, UNEP-WCMC developed a new training session on NbS, which will be available from early 2022. The training aims to help Partners:

- Understand what NbS are (and what they are not).
- Gain an overview of the different types of NbS and their relevance to business activities.
- Understand the business case for integrating NbS into a company's activities.
- Learn about the benefits associated with NbS.
- Understand the main aspects of good practice for planning NbS.
- Know where to access key resources and tools to support the planning and implementation of NbS.
- See how NbS is already being used through examples and case studies.

The training is designed to be an interactive session that can be adapted to Partner needs and incorporate Partner experiences.



Point of Contact
Stacey Baggaley



6.1 Publications



High aboveground carbon stock of African tropical montane forests

Cuni-Sanchez A, et al, (2021) – Available here



The relative importance of COVID-19 pandemic impacts on biodiversity conservation globally

Gibbons DW, et al., (2021) – Available here



A guide to applying the Red List of Ecosystems to ecosystem restoration

Valderrábano M, et al., (2021) – Available here



Mapping the Global Funding Landscape for Coral Reef Restoration. International Coral Reef Initiative.

Hein MY and Staub F (2021) – Available here

7. Events Calendar

Proteus Partner Events

- Feb** Technical Briefing Note – Area of Influence - Indirect Impacts
- Feb** Technical Briefing Note – UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- Mar** Data Forum - STAR
- Jun** Horizon Scanning Webinar - Biodiversity Net Gain
- Jun** Proteus Annual Meeting

External Events

- Feb - Mar** Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, part 2 (UNEA-5.2)
- Mar** COP15 resumed sessions of the subsidiary bodies
- Jun** Stockholm+50
- (pending confirmation)** COP15 part 2