

Monthly Newsletter

Proteus Monthly Newsletter - February 2026

Dear partners,

2026 marks the beginning of a new phase for Proteus. The 2026-2030 phase is a vital one for biodiversity, with 2030 representing the target end point for both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets. The next five years will be vital for implementing these important goals and targets and building business resilience to environmental change.

Please read on for a summary of new resources and upcoming opportunities from UNEP-WCMC and Proteus.

Highlights

- Launch of the new Proteus website, including updated Knowledge Hub
- Publication of the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment
- Release of the Nature Tools Compass, enabling navigation of tools for different parts of the TNFD LEAP approach
- Updates to the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas, Important Marine Mammal Areas, and Important Shark and Ray Areas datasets

[Log in to your company's Proteus dashboard](#)

Upcoming events and engagement opportunities

Proteus Annual Meeting and Nature Action Dialogues 2026

Join us at Jesus College, Cambridge, May 12-14, for the annual Nature Action Dialogues and Proteus Annual Meeting.

The Nature Action Dialogues provide a unique, powerful forum for technical experts across business, finance and conservation to come together to share insights and accelerate action.

The Nature Action Dialogues are followed by a closed day for Proteus partners, with opportunities for deeper technical conversations, peer-to-peer sharing and discussions on the governance of Proteus.



Proteus partners get three tickets for the Nature Action Dialogues and Proteus closed day. Company Focal Points for Proteus will be coordinating their company's attendance.

[Visit the Nature Action Dialogues 2026 website](#)

IBAT User Innovation Group and feedback on the PS6 report

The next meeting of IBAT's User Innovation Group will take place in March/ April 2026. Get in touch with the IBAT team at ibat@ibat-alliance.org for more details.

IBAT are seeking feedback on the PS6 report, as they prepare to update it following the release of the [updated Critical Habitat Screening Layer in 2025](#). If you have feedback on the PS6 report that you would like to be considered, please contact the IBAT team (ibat@ibat-alliance.org) by the end of this month.

Priority country nominations

Each year, Proteus partners have the opportunity to nominate priority countries for update in the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA).

The Proteus team has begun reaching out to company Focal Points individually for nominations of three Priority Countries for update in the WDPCA. You can check when your company's priority countries were last updated on the Proteus website company dashboard.

[Log in to your company's Proteus dashboard](#)

New resources

Proteus website update

As part of the new phase, we are excited to share the new, updated Proteus website. Log on to the website (login details remain the same) to find all the Proteus resources from the current and previous Proteus phases in the updated Knowledge Hub. The Dashboard provides details of the support available to your company through Proteus.

[Log in and explore the Proteus website](#)

IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment

The Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) published its first ever Business and Biodiversity Assessment on the 9th of February. The assessment brought together leading experts, including a number of scientists from UNEP-WCMC, to deliver an authoritative scientific review of the relationship between business and biodiversity. The assessment sets out the best available evidence and approaches for businesses to understand their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity.

[Download the State of the World's Migratory Species report](#)

Nature Tools Compass

The Nature Tools Compass helps companies to choose the right tools to support a nature assessment. It provides an overview of over 70 tools for understanding nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities. Tools are mapped to the relevant phase of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) LEAP approach. All the included tools are licensed for commercial use and the majority of the tools have global coverage.

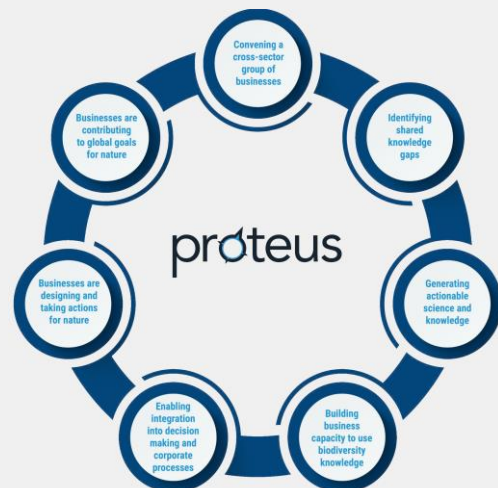
Read more on the Nature Tools Compass and the SUSTAIN project that developed the tool [here](#).

[Download the Nature Tools Compass](#)

Proteus Strategy 2026-2030

Building on over two decades of success, the 2026-2030 phase of Proteus will continue to leverage UNEP-WCMC's unique position at the science-policy-practice interface.

Proteus' new strategy sets out Proteus' vision and mission for this phase, detailing the goals that will define our activities and workplans.



[Read the 2026-2030 Proteus strategy](#)

Business action for biodiversity via science based targets for nature

UNEP-WCMC contributed to the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN)'s new technical position paper, that explains how SBTN's pressure targets link to the state of biodiversity and identifies opportunities for development of the SBTN approach to help companies contribute to a wider range of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

[Read SBTN's technical position paper](#)

Data updates

World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA):

January saw updates to the WDPCA data for Bangladesh, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. In February, the WDPCA data for Canada, the Maldives and Nigeria were updated.

Find out more about these updates: [Proteus website dashboard](#)

Access the latest version of the WDPCA: [World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas, February 2026](#)

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs):

The IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force has released a new version of the IMMA Shapefile layer. The new layer includes a number of refinements, updates and improvements, though the total number of IMMAs has not changed.

Explore IMMAs online: [IMMA e-Atlas](#)

Download the dataset: [IMMA GIS dataset](#)

Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs):

The IUCN Species Survival Commission has published its first global overview of ISRAs for migratory sharks listed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. ISRAs are identified by a standardized process, mapping habitats essential for shark, ray and chimaera species. The report (and associated map) highlights over 800 ISRAs globally across coastal, pelagic and high seas environments.

Report: [Ocean Travellers: safeguarding critical habitats for migratory sharks and rays](#)

Explore ISRAs: [WEB-GIS ISRA atlas](#)

Technical support (including training)

Every Proteus partner has the opportunity to access 50 hours of bespoke training and technical support from UNEP-WCMC experts. Contact your company's Focal Point to discuss training and technical support opportunities.

[Check your company's remaining technical assistance allowance](#)

[Explore how Proteus partners have used their technical assistance allowance in the past](#)

With best wishes,
The UNEP-WCMC Proteus team