

Footprinting, Positive Impact and Roadmap for Biodiversity Investment

EU Community of Practice Finance@Biodiversity

Lake Symphalla, a restorative LIFE project by Piraeus Bank

Pioneering Work on Finance and Biodiversity

Financial institutions increasingly recognise that sustainable finance is an important issue for a resilient future. Although climate-related risks and opportunities are increasingly factored into financial decisions, fully embracing the move towards sustainable finance will require more.

The [EU Community of Practice Finance@Biodiversity](#) (EU CoP F@B) brings together 12 European financial institutions that recognise the need to do more. Over the last two years, the EU CoP F@B has met several times to exchange good practices and explore ways forward. The members recognise that in order to equip their management with a sustainability metric for the 21st century, natural capital approaches will need to be adopted. Impacts and dependencies involving natural capacity, including our climate, need to be assessed, valued and quantified in terms of financial risks and opportunities. The members recognise that the integration of biodiversity impact into financial activities and decision-making will lead to new and more sustainable business opportunities and better risk management for investments.

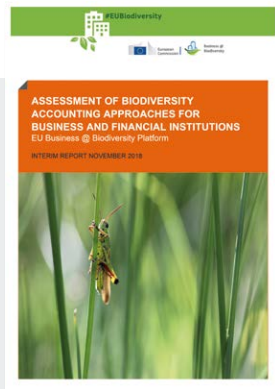


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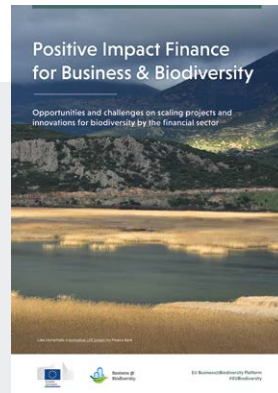
EU CoP Finance@Biodiversity Results

The [CoP Finance@Biodiversity](#) is part of the [EU Business@Biodiversity Platform](#) and was set up by the European Commission in 2016. Members are: ACTIAM, ASN Bank, AXA Investment Managers, CDC Biodiversité, Conservation Capital, Degroof Petercam, EIB, GLS Bank, Finance in Motion, FMO, Mirova and Piraeus Bank. Supporting platforms are CDSB, NCC, NCF and VBDO.



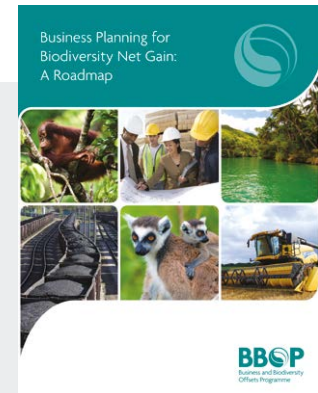
Biodiversity Footprinting

- **Aim** To improve the assessment of financial institutions' biodiversity footprint, including the impact of their investments and finance activities
- By learning from each participant's efforts in the area of biodiversity footprinting
- By identifying and exploring common rules or concepts as starting points for biodiversity footprinting
- By identifying gaps and challenges for further development and action
- **Result** 'Common ground in biodiversity footprint methodologies for the financial sector' for policy makers, decision makers and environmental, social and governance (ESG) specialists in financial institutions; by CDC Biodiversité, ASN Bank, ACTIAM, supported by Finance in Motion
- **Result** Interim report November 2018 'Assessment of biodiversity accounting approaches for business and financial institutions' for policy makers, decision makers and developers; by EU B@B Platform Workstream NCA Lead Arcadis



Positive Biodiversity Impact

- **Aim** To move progressively towards net positive impact on biodiversity through innovation and finance
- By examining how positive impact finance can be applied by financial institutions
- By addressing challenges and opportunities, including ecosystems' multiple business case, target setting, matchmaking and developing a more favourable framework
- **Result** 'Positive Impact Finance for Business & Biodiversity' brief for financial institutions, businesses and policy makers; with EIB, Piraeus Bank, Finance in Motion and GLS Bank



Biodiversity Investment Roadmap

- **Aim** To achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain in biodiversity by thoroughly applying the mitigation hierarchy in investment strategies
- This means avoiding and minimising effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services, restoring ecosystems afterwards and offsetting or compensating for any residual impact
- **Result** Finance section focused on investment strategies and engagement in BBOP's legacy 'Business Planning for Biodiversity Net Gain: A Roadmap' and associated Technical Notes for business, financial institutions and governments; with contributions from CDC Biodiversité, ACTIAM, ASN Bank

Invitation to next steps

The work of the CoP F@B will continue in the coming years and we would welcome complementary or challenging insights. Other financial institutions are invited to take part in this effort and to contribute to the co-development of the next steps towards a positive impact on biodiversity.

Contact

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EU Business@Biodiversity Platform

The [EU Business@Biodiversity Platform](#) is a forum for dialogue and policy interface to discuss the links between business and biodiversity at EU level. It was set up by the European Commission with the aim of working with and helping businesses to integrate natural capital and biodiversity considerations into their business practices. The work focuses on three thematic workstreams: Natural Capital Accounting, Innovation and Finance. Further information: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index_en.htm

Contact

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Disclaimer

This document has been prepared as part of the EU Business@Biodiversity Platform; however, it reflects only the authors' views, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.