

Inception Workshop Report for the GEF-funded Project: Business Action and Advocacy for the Planet

Workshop 1 (BfN Coordination Group Meeting):

Date & time: 22 November 2022, 10:30-11:30 am EST

Format: Virtual meeting

Workshop 2 (Event at COP15):

Date & time: 16 December 2022, 4:30 pm EST

Format: In-person event

Location: COP15 GEF Pavillion, Montreal, Canada



Introduction

[Business for Nature](#) is a global coalition that brings together business and conservation organizations and forward-thinking companies. Together, we demonstrate and amplify a credible business voice on nature calling for governments to adopt policies to reverse nature loss in this decade.

Our 2022-2024 priorities are:

- Global Advocacy: Continue to unify and amplify a leading business voice calling for ambitious policies on nature at global level
- National Implementation: Create a business-government dialogue in 4 countries (India, South Africa, Malaysia, Colombia) to inform the development of the business chapter of CBD NBSAPs
- Business Action: Encourage further business action by engaging companies, simplifying the landscape and amplifying existing initiatives

We take an integrated systems approach to contribute to a nature-positive, net-zero-emission and equitable world.

Partners and funders

We work with [more than 75](#) international and national partners and a diverse group of businesses from all sectors, sizes and geographies. We encourage companies to commit and act to reverse nature loss, and advocate for greater policy ambition. Our [Strategic Advisory Group](#) ensures our work is grounded in real business and acts as ambassadors for the coalition.

Business for Nature is legally and fiscally hosted at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Our work is made possible by the generous financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Porticus and the European Commission. Our partners also contribute occasionally financially and in-kind to shared projects for which we are very grateful.

Inception Workshop background

On 22 November and 16 December 2022, Business for Nature hosted two inception workshops for the “Business Action and Advocacy for the Planet” project. The objective was to bring together relevant stakeholders and to present a general overview of the project,

including its key objectives, components and activities. The inception workshop was split into two parts to accommodate different stakeholder groups.

The first workshop was organized for internal stakeholders and acted as the official kickoff of the project implementation phase. It took place virtually on 22 November 2022 and was attended by the BfN Coordination Group, the CI-GEF agency and the BfN team. At the meeting, BfN's Coordination Group, which acts as the de facto Steering Committee for the project, reviewed and approved the project work plan, budget, and governance arrangements.

The second workshop was open to external stakeholders and acted as the public launch of the project. It took place in-person on 16 December 2022 during the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal, Canada. We chose this occasion because a great number of our stakeholders attended COP15 from different parts of the world, and a major part of the project is about the national implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15. Our event had a great turnout, which demonstrated increasing momentum from the business sector to contribute to the Framework's implementation. We thank the Global Environment Facility and Conservation International for partnering on organizing this event.

1st Inception Workshop & BfN Coordination Group Meeting

Basic information

Date & time: 22 November 2022, 10:30-11:30 am EST

Format: Virtual Zoom call

Attendees

- Daniela Carrison, Senior Director, Project Design & Oversight Conservation International
- Prapti Bhandary, Senior Manager, Project Oversight, CI-GEF Agency
- Linda Krueger, Director, Biodiversity & Infrastructure Policy, The Nature Conservancy
- Martin Lok, Executive Director, Capitals Coalition
- Luke Pritchard, Manager - Nature Based Solutions, We Mean Business
- Bowen Zhang, Deputy Secretary General, Society of Entrepreneurs & Ecology (SEE)
- Benoît Galaup, Manager Biodiversity & Sustainable IT, Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE)
- Eliot Whittington, Director, Centre for Policy and Industrial Transformation, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)
- Elizabeth Clark, Programme Manager at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)
- Akanksha Khatri, Head, Nature Action Agenda at World Economic Forum
- Sam Putt del Pino, Global Markets Practice Leader, WWF International
- Nadine McCormick, Manager, Nature Action, WBCSD – World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Josip Pervan, Senior Manager, Policy, Advocacy & Member Mobilization, WBCSD – World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature
- Lucy Coast, Communications Director, Business for Nature
- Michael Ofosuhen-Wise, Climate & Nature Manager, Business for Nature
- Shell Lin, Partners and Operations Manager, Business for Nature
- Constanza Torres, Advocacy Associate, Business for Nature
- John Sabet, Business Engagement Associate, Business for Nature
- Davey Richerson, Strategy & Consulting Manager, Accenture UK

Meeting details

Summary

Business for Nature has been awarded a USD \$2 million, 2-year GEF-funded grant for the project “Towards a nature positive world by 2030 through businesses driving policy ambition and reducing negative corporate impact”. The implementation started from August 2022.

Conservation International (CI-GEF) serves as the implementing agency for this project, guiding the project design phase and providing technical and financial oversight during the implementation phase.

This meeting acted as the official inception workshop of the implementation phase. It was attended by the BfN Coordination Group, the CI-GEF agency and the BfN team (see participant list above). The main objective was for the CG, which acts as the de facto Steering Committee for the project, to review and approve the project work plan, budget, and governance arrangements.

Please see below the detailed agenda:

- The meeting started with participants introducing themselves in the chat (5 mins)
- Daniela Carrión, Senior Director, Project Design and Oversight, CI-GEF explained the Agency overview and implementation requirements, including process and safeguards at a high level ([view the slides](#)) (10 min)
- Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature presented the GEF project including workplan, budget, governance arrangements and roles & responsibilities of the BfN team ([view the slides](#)) (10 mins)
- CG members raised questions regarding the documents presented, which were addressed by the BfN team. Topics discussed included the status of and opportunities around the national engagement component, clarification around the business engagement plans, and areas of potential collaborations. The CG overwhelmingly expressed support for the project and offered technical expertise and network to contribute to its implementation. (5 mins)
- BfN Coordination Group (CG) / Steering Committee approved the workplan & budget and confirmed governance arrangements (5 mins)

2nd Inception workshop & COP15 event

Basic information

Title: How can businesses contribute to the implementation of GBF Target 15?

Date: Friday 16 December, 16:00-17:00 EST

Format: 60-minute in-person event.

Livestream / recording: <https://thegef.shorthandstories.com/how-can-businesses-contribute/index.html>

Photos: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7009964402183389184/>

Audience: Governments, businesses, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders

Location: GEF Pavillion at COP15, Montreal, Canada

Hosts: Business for Nature (host), Global Environmental Facility (co-host), Conservation International (co-host)

Description:

This event acted as the public launch of the “Business action and advocacy for the planet” project. It took place during the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal, Canada, where a great number of our stakeholders gathered from different parts of the world. Our project is highly relevant for the COP because it will contribute to national implementation of the business-related targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 15.

This event brought together business and NGO leaders to discuss how business can contribute to the Framework’s implementation. It demonstrated to governments a strong business momentum on nature, that leading companies understand that nature underpins economy and are standing ready to work together with governments to adopt and implement a transformative GBF that includes businesses and financial institutions as actors of positive change.

Speakers:

- Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature
- Herbert Lust, Senior VP of Global Public Partnerships, Conservation International
- Matthew Reddy, Senior Private Sector Specialist, Global Environmental Facility
- Syed Mohazri Syed Hazari, Interim Chair, Malaysia Platform for Business and Biodiversity
- Mariana Sarmiento, CEO, Terrasos

- Benj Sykes, Vice President, Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted
- Sarah Woodfield, Active Ownership Manager- Biodiversity and Natural Capital, Schroders

Key takeaways:

"We must think about business' contribution to the GBF implementation more broadly than resource mobilization. They can bring much more than money and help shift markets and policy and provide data. "

- Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature

"When we look at the scale of the problem of nature loss, it requires strong participation from the private sector. Businesses need to take leadership because they depend on biodiversity."

- Matthew Reddy, Senior Private Sector Specialist, Global Environment Facility

"We have a tendency to reduce biodiversity to simple solutions. But the reason why everyone needs to work together is because we don't have a complete picture."

- Herbert Lust, Senior VP of Global Public Partnerships, Conservation International

"BfN has received GEF funding for a new project. Next year, we'll aim to build business and government dialogues to support the national implementation of the GBF in Malaysia, South Africa, Colombia and India."

- Shell Lin, Partners and Operations Manager, Business for Nature

"Nature loss is a systematic risk. We need dialogues to find sector-specific pathways towards a nature-positive future. We also need consistency across jurisdictions to ensure policies push in the same direction. Business with global supply chains can help inform policymakers."

- Sarah Woodfield, Active Ownership Manager- Biodiversity and Natural Capital, Schroders

"We need governments to adopt incentives to inspire Ørsted and its competitors to act on the things that matter, including halting and reversing nature loss. Bad regulation is worse than no regulation - without public-private sector dialogues, we risk ending up with regulation that won't deliver the required outcomes. Partnerships between business and government is practical, and business needs to bring solutions to government, not problems."

- Benj Sykes, Vice President, Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted

"Policies can have a true impact on the money on the ground for nature and biodiversity. We need to make sure nature-based solutions represent opportunities for people that work for nature, especially the custodians of territories."

- Mariana Sarmiento, CEO, Terrasos

"One of the reasons why the Aichi targets failed was the lack of participation from the private sector. Businesses can help with implementation of the GBF, and they want to go beyond just donating money, but also contribute time and knowledge. We need clear signals that governments are ready for partnerships."

- Syed Mohazri Syed Hazari, Interim Chair, Malaysia Platform for Business and Biodiversity

Detailed program

Time	Details	Speaker
15 min	<p><u>Opening remark</u></p> <p>Before event starts - Eva, Matt, Herbert sit on stage</p> <p>(4 min) Eva welcomes speakers and audience, introduces the event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the business momentum on nature and the importance of having business-government dialogues at the national level to achieve Target 15. • Announce that the GEF is financing a project to implement Target 15 and the general inclusion of business in the implementation of the GBF. The project is in collaboration with CI as the implementation agency and BfN as the execution agency. • Clarify that is helping COUNTRIES, not businesses to implement the business-related targets, particularly Colombia, Malaysia, India and South Africa (pending country endorsement letters). <p>--- 1st question ---</p>	<p>Moderator: Eva Zabey, Executive Director, BfN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>- Matthew Reddy, Senior Private Sector Specialist, GEF</p> <p>- Herbert Lust, Senior VP of Global Public Partnerships, CI</p>

	<p>(1 min) Eva introduces Matt and Herbert from GEF and CI, invites them to share a few words about their organizations' work on business engagement.</p> <p>(2 min) Matt shares about GEF's institutional priorities and business engagement strategies</p> <p>(2 min) Herbert shares CI's institutional priorities, corporate engagement strategy and position for GEF funding</p> <p>--- 2nd question ---</p> <p>(1 min) Eva asks each speaker why it's important for leading businesses to be involved in the national implementation of Target 15</p> <p>(2 min) Herbert shares answer</p> <p>(2 min) Matt shares answer</p> <p>(1 min) Eva thanks both speakers, invites them off stage to sit in the first row of the audience.</p>	
8 min	<p><u>Project overview</u></p> <p>(1 min) Eva invites Shell onto the stage to give an overview of the BfN project</p> <p>(6 min) Shell gives an overview of the BfN project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce key project components and expected outcomes • Emphasize that the scope of the project is focused on four countries, but we will be sharing the outcomes and lessons learned globally. <p>(1 min) Shell gives the floor back to Eva and walks off stage</p>	<p>Speaker: Shell Lin, Partners and Operations Manager, Business for Nature</p>

30 min	<p><u>Panel discussion</u></p> <p>--- 1st question ---</p> <p>(2 min) Eva invites the panelists to come on stage, introduces each and asks 1st question: What do companies need from governments to take more ambitious actions on nature and therefore contribute to the implementation of the GBF?</p> <p>(2 min) Ben answers the 1st question</p> <p>(2 min) Sarah answers the 1st question</p> <p>(2 min) Syed answers the 1st question</p> <p>(2 min) Mariana answers the 1st question</p> <p>--- 2nd question ---</p> <p>(2 min) Eva asks all the panelist the 2nd question: What are the risks of not having – and the opportunities of having – national business-government dialogues to implement Target 15?</p> <p>(2 min) Syed answers the 2nd question</p> <p>(2 min) Mariana answers the 2nd question</p> <p>(2 min) Sarah answers the 2nd question</p> <p>(2 min) Ben answers the 2nd question</p> <p>--- Q&A ---</p> <p>(1 min) Eva thanks all the panelists and invites for questions from the audience</p> <p>(8 min) All panelists respond to questions from the audience (can take 1-2 questions)</p>	<p>Moderator: Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syed Mohazri Syed Hazari, Interim Chair, Malaysia Platform for Business and Biodiversity (also Deputy Head of Department, DHI Water & Environment) - Mariana Sarmiento, CEO, Terrasos - Ben Sykes, Vice President, Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted - Sarah Woodfield, Active Ownership Manager- Biodiversity and Natural Capital, Schroders
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	(1 min) Eva thanks all the panelists and invites them off stage	
7 min	<p><u>Closing remark:</u></p> <p>(1 min) Eva invites Matt and Herbert back on stage and asks each to share one takeaway from the discussions.</p> <p>(2 min) Herbert shares takeaway</p> <p>(2 min) Matt shares takeaway</p> <p>(2 min) Eva wraps up, thanks all the speakers and audience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap on the importance of building business-government dialogues on the national level to contribute to the implementation of Target 15 of the GBF. BfN, GEF, CI look forward to working together with national governments, partner organizations and businesses to ensure the success of this project. 	<p>Moderator: Eva Zabey, Executive Director, BfN</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>- Matthew Reddy, Senior Private Sector Specialist, GEF</p> <p>- Herbert Lust, Senior VP of Global Public Partnerships, CI</p>