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Business for
Biodiversity
Ireland

Enabling the Business Transition to Nature-Positive

PLATFORM PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft v5.0

What is Business for Biodiversity Ireland?

Business for Biodiversity Ireland (BFBI) was established in 2021 to work with the Irish business community to create a nature positive economy for Ireland that can transform our collective future.

BFBI was created with seed-funding provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), to contribute to the realisation of Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity: *By 2050, biodiversity in Ireland is valued, conserved, restored and sustainably used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.*

BFBI is a research-driven biodiversity initiative without political affiliation and is supported in its development by Natural Capital Ireland (NCI), the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), and Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) .



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The Key Aims of Business for Biodiversity Ireland

Biodiversity loss, largely driven by unsustainable economic growth, threatens the ecosystem services that allow human societies to thrive. Ecosystem services from healthy ecosystems provide innumerable benefits to humans, including food supply, carbon sequestration, flood attenuation, water filtration and natural resources, and are critical for ecological and economic resilience in the context of climate change. Healthy ecosystems also support human health and wellbeing¹. Biodiversity loss threatens the provision of these essential services by eroding ecosystem health and stability, resilience to environmental change, and essential functions. It is now recognised that the negative implications of biodiversity loss for humanity are comparable to those of climate change and in response the current economic model is pivoting towards a nature-positive approach. Climate change is a major driver of biodiversity loss and biodiversity loss accelerates climate change.

The key aims of the Platform are:

- To help businesses assess their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and incorporate this information into operational and strategic plans to ensure that businesses operate within planetary boundaries.
- To advocate for policy reforms that create the right enabling environment for businesses to implement nature-positive strategies.
- To support businesses to better understand risks and opportunities linked to the loss of nature for their businesses.
- To identify what concrete actions businesses can put in place to mitigate these risks, maximise these opportunities and improve their decision making.
- To identify how businesses can improve their positive impacts and reduce their negative impacts on nature.
- To support businesses strengthening their business models and resilience to future shocks due to nature loss and climate change and better understand the costs and benefits associated with these activities.
- To facilitate businesses to be transparent and to disclose and report on biodiversity-related activities, whilst minimising the risk of greenwashing.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/biodiversity-and-health#:~:text=Biodiversity%20provides%20numerous%20ecosystem%20services,upon%20terrestrial%20and%20marine%20ecosystems.>



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The Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)

In addition, BFBI can support implementation of many of the targets under the landmark [post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#):

TARGET 1: Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss

TARGET 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems

TARGET 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas

TARGET 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts

TARGET 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species

TARGET 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact

TARGET 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity

TARGET 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

TARGET 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People

TARGET 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

TARGET 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People

TARGET 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity

TARGET 13: Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge

TARGET 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level

TARGET 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts

TARGET 16: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption

TARGET 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology

TARGET 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity

TARGET 19: Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance

TARGET 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity

TARGET 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action

TARGET 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all

TARGET 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

Business for Biodiversity Ireland supports businesses in their compliance with the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive ([CSRD](#)), in particular around the European Sustainability Standard ([ESRS](#)) E4 on Biodiversity and Ecosystems for both mandatory and voluntary reporting. The Platform also facilitates businesses to positively contribute to the delivery of targets within the [SDG Framework](#), specifically Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and Goal 15 (Life on Land).



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BFBI Supporters

Natural Capital Ireland (NCI)

Natural Capital Ireland (NCI) is the lead authority on natural capital in Ireland and has had demonstrated success leading major projects that advance the business and biodiversity conversation in Ireland. NCI is a not-for-profit organisation leading the national conversation on natural capital. NCI comprises a group of organisations and individuals from academia and the public, private and NGO sectors, committed to the development and application of the natural capital approach in policy and decision-making. Their well-established connections with government agencies, biodiversity scientists and the business community mean they are well placed to develop and support the growth of the Business for Biodiversity Ireland Platform and deliver measurable biodiversity actions for a range of business types.

National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP), managed by the NBDC plays an important role in increasing biodiversity awareness across society and driving meaningful actions for wild pollinators. The new phase of the *AIPP 2021-2025* was launched in March 2021. Currently, the AIPP Business Network comprises 327 businesses, spanning microenterprises, SMEs, large businesses and multi-site corporations, committed to implementing pollinator-friendly actions. The AIPP is an entry-level biodiversity initiative and businesses will be encouraged to scale up their biodiversity action through Partnership of BFBI.

The NBDC provided expert guidance on the Business for Biodiversity Ireland *Biodiversity Commitment* and is supporting the multi-sector community of practice launched in January 2023.

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

BITCI provides advice to businesses on sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Social inclusion and climate action are two of their key focus areas. The Network for Responsible Business currently comprises about 100 large businesses and multinational/corporates and is accessed through three Partnership streams. BITCI manage the Business Working Responsibly Mark which is Ireland's only certified standard for sustainability and CSR. BFBI will work with BITCI to develop the role of biodiversity in the Environment pillar of the Business Working Responsibly Mark certification process.



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Our Commitment to You

The Platform commits to supporting our partners to:

- Cultivate pioneering leadership approaches within your sector
- Deliver a credible biodiversity strategy to stakeholders
- Evolve your business model and gain first-mover advantages. It has been shown that acting to protect nature now will reduce wider economic costs in the long run.²
- Evolve your sector toward nature positivity and transform how your sector operates.
- Understand nature-related risk within your value chain and invest in the protection of ecosystem services and natural capital, for the triple benefit of business, nature and society.
- Delivery of your Environmental Social Governance (ESG) objectives.
- Confidently prepare for mandatory and voluntary reporting directives focused on climate, nature and biodiversity.
- Build internal capacity within the sustainability team and enhance employee awareness.
- Access advice, time-saving templates and, guidance on ESG obligations developed for the Irish context and in easy-to-understand language.
- Access updates and global research in this rapidly changing landscape.
- Become part of the lobbying voice and advocacy in biodiversity-relevant policy-making that may impact your sector.
- Contribute and help to define best practice in your sector.
- Learn to collaborate in a pre-competitive setting.
- Share your experiences, learn from others and build meaningful relationships with other sustainability professionals.
- Use your engagement with the Platform to authentically improve your organisation's reputation.
- Improving your organisation's storytelling around biodiversity and climate action.

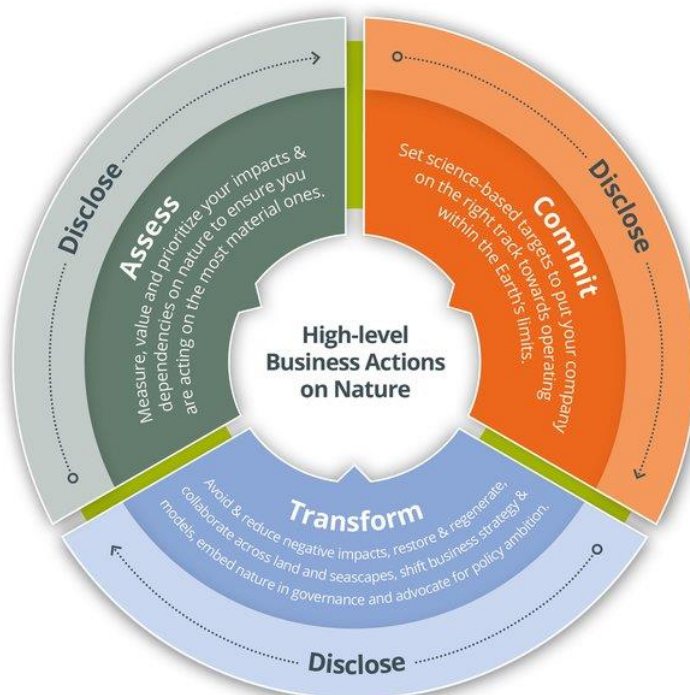
² <https://wwf.ca/action-plan-for-business-and-biodiversity/>

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How we will deliver

Facilitating regular in-person workshops

The Platform will facilitate three in-person workshops per year. The workshops will be focused on utilising the Platform’s “Roadmap to Nature Positive” and navigating the “Assess, Commit, Transform-Disclose” (ACT-D) framework with the partner organisations. Here, we will build relationships, facilitate peer-learning and create an enabling environment for creative problem-solving, innovation and leadership. We will learn how to collaborate in a pre-competitive setting.



ACT-D Framework, Business for Nature, 2023

Co-developing sectoral best practice guidance

The sectoral best practice will be developed as a living document, published annually reflecting the work of the CoP. The document will be reviewed and updated at the of each CoP cycle.

CoP Partners will be

- Contributing to the preparation of benchmarking report on current practices within the sector globally
- Contributing to the preparation of a *State of the Sector* report – what are the CoP organisations/sector doing already?
 - *Collect data current biodiversity priorities within the sector*



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- Contributing to the development of next steps of the BFBI “Roadmap to Nature Positive”
- Exploring and utilising prevailing frameworks and methodology
- Establishing high-level impacts and dependencies in the sector. Understanding where nature-related risk might reside in the value chain.
- Conducting organisational materiality assessments and collating the data.
- Creating a sector level materiality disclosure
 - *Output: Disclosure*
- Developing guidelines for the material topics
 - *Output: Guidance document*
- Coordinating a strategy to employ to have collective impact
 - *Output: monitoring and evaluation strategy*

Delivering Employee Workshops

The Platform will create and deliver employee engagement workshops for the sector, to mainstream biodiversity concepts throughout all levels of the business. These workshops will serve to build internal capacity and improve nature literacy within the business.

Mentoring

- BFBI will help partners to understand the environmental narrative of their organisation and assist them in authentic biodiversity storytelling to minimise the risk of greenwashing.
- The Platform will act in a one-to-one capacity as a soundboard for challenges and solutions relating to the work of the CoP.

Compliance, reporting and document validation

Partners can avail of sessions with the platform team to review reports, strategies and disclosures and offer advice to improve. We will provide guidance on reporting obligations and how best to standardise reporting.

Advocacy

With the understanding that EU and Irish policy creates the context for how Irish organisations operate, the Platform will provide opportunities for Partners to influence policy to create an enabling environment the sector to progress on their journey to Nature Positive. This is a vital part of the process in moving toward a Nature Positive economy for Ireland and shows a level of responsibility and leadership that we would expect from Platform Partners.



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Your Commitment to Us

As a Partner of BFBI you are agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

1. Partners must actively contribute to realising Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity: *By 2050, biodiversity in Ireland is valued, conserved, restored and sustainably used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.*
2. Partners understand that the platform is focused on helping businesses to assess their impacts on the natural world and they must be committed to completing that assessment and ready to openly share their findings.
3. Understanding how your business depends on nature is a critical element in the journey to nature positive. Partners must be ready to conduct an assessment of nature dependencies and be ready to share their findings.
4. For many businesses, much of the impact and dependency on nature and biodiversity resides in the value chain. Partners must be committed to exploring their value chain to fully understand those external impacts and dependencies.
5. Organisations involved in the trading, retail or distribution of fossil fuels will recognise that their contribution to climate change is their primary impact on biodiversity. For this reason, it is required that organisations involved in the trading, retail or distribution of fossil fuels have a robust transition plan in place in order to join BFBI, and that annual progress of this plan is demonstrated in order to maintain their Partnership. We welcome the opportunity to work with and support organisations in this space given their considerable potential for positive impact.
6. Partners must be ready to evolve the way they operate in order to transition towards Nature Positive. They will develop metrics to monitor and evaluate this evolution and report on impacts, positive and negative, in their annual report.
7. Partners should understand that the journey to nature positive is an iterative one and should be properly resourced, through the creation of strategic roles that can influence decision-making within the company.
8. Partners should commit to setting ambitious goals that are practically achievable through setting and meeting science-based targets. These goals should be within the organisation's capacity to reach and aligned with prevailing directives.
9. Partners should be ready to implement on-site actions to support their local biodiversity, where possible. The platform actively encourages Partners to form partnerships or collaborations with local biodiversity experts, such as environmental NGOs, universities and community groups on biodiversity-relevant projects or initiative.
10. Partners are expected to report their progress on an annual basis in line with prevailing reporting standards.
11. Partners will be committed to increasing awareness and mainstreaming biodiversity issues throughout each business function and their employee body.
12. Whilst the platform is facilitating networking, mentoring and peer learning, it is not intended as marketplace for those aiming to sell corporate biodiversity solutions or consultancy.
13. The Platform reserves the right to remove from its Partnership, without refund, organisations who are in violation of these terms and conditions.



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14. Partners must attend the in-person workshops. Up to five employees from each partner organisation can attend, but at least one person from each organisation must be in attendance. We strongly suggest that there is continuity of attendees to ensure smooth progression through the steps of the process and maximum benefit for Partner organisations.

The Business for Biodiversity Commitment

A Business for Biodiversity Commitment has been co-developed with the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The content produced by the platform will support businesses in achieving the objectives set out in this Commitment. The details of the Commitment will evolve as best practice evolves in this space over time. All Partners and Members are required to sign this Commitment as part of Step 1 of their work with the Platform. View the Commitment [here](#).

How to sign up

Businesses (large corporate, SME, microenterprise) interested in becoming a member of the Platform can initially register via the online [sign-up portal](#). Organisations involved in the trading, retail or distribution of fossil fuels must have a robust transition plan in place in order to join BFBI, and annual progress of this plan must be demonstrated in order to maintain Partnership. We welcome the opportunity to work with and support organisations in this space given their considerable potential for positive impact. If your organisation is in this category, please contact Lucy directly for an initial conversation at lucy.gaffney@businessforbiodiversity.ie

Partnership Fees 2024

The Platform runs its Community of Practice operations in annual cycles from the date of the sector CoP launch and annually thereafter. Payment of the fees commits your organisations participation for 12 months. Fees will be subject to an annual review.

Enterprise category	Headcount: Annual Work Unit (AWU)	Annual turnover	Annual balance sheet total	Annual Partnership Fee
		<i>Satisfy one of the conditions below</i>		
Micro business	<10	≤ EUR 2 million	≤ EUR 2 million	€200
Small business or public body	<50	≤ EUR 10 million	≤ EUR 10 million	€2500
Medium business	<250	≤ EUR 50 million	≤ EUR 43 million	€5000
Large business	>250	> EUR 50 million	> EUR 50 million	€7500
Corporate/Multi-national				€10000

Upon joining, the member will be permitted to use the BFBI logo upon request, in accordance with the BFBI Communications Policy (Appendix 1)