REINFORCING SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES FOR INTEGRATED BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE AND POLICIES

Develop a format for knowledge uptake by private sector actors

Strengthening the uptake of biodiversity and climate science by business

Deliverable D8.2

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Summary

Biodiversity and climate science are critical to support long-term business competitiveness in times of economic and geopolitical volatility, by guiding strategic decision-making and integrated solutions. This includes, for example, developing resilient business models and value chains capable of withstanding systemic and interconnected ecological, geopolitical and economic risks.

This report aims to highlight challenges and avenues forward to the uptake of biodiversity and climate science by business, with particular reference to the knowledge synthesised by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). IPBES and IPCC are internationally recognised authorities on biodiversity and climate, respectively—two mutually reinforcing crises that require responses drawing on multiple disciplines and knowledge systems. The data for this report were collected through an in-person workshop conducted in 2025 in Helsinki. This workshop brought together 16 experts, including practitioners from international business sustainability platforms, pioneering companies, and representatives from science-policy interfaces.

The workshop revealed that the uptake of biodiversity and climate science requires concerted societal efforts, involving science-policy brokers and business leaders in primis, as well as financiers, sectoral and business platforms, academia, governments, and media. Knowledge from IPBES and IPCC is often used for agenda-setting and communicative purposes, while more concrete applications are deployed for climate-related decision-making. A practicality gap in the uptake of scientific knowledge is created by information overload and limited in-house expertise, which in companies remains compartmentalised in communication, compliance or legal teams. Consultancies are relied on to contextualise knowledge and analyse data for businesses, leading to a fragmented landscape of knowledge brokers.

IPBES, IPCC and their national multipliers can work synergistically to enhance uptake, by tailoring and disseminating information to different audiences, expanding outreach, and engaging the business community in knowledge generation processes. Multipliers include, among others, national IPBES and IPCC fora and focal points, representatives of ministries, of national biodiversity and climate panels, and of environmental agencies and research institutes. To operationalise biodiversity and climate at the company level, it is essential to embed sector-specific information, business-relevant policy analyses, and actionable options into global and regional assessments, and to improve data accessibility. Science translation and outreach should also target diverse business types and roles across sectors.

Ambitious and consistent policies, including disclosure and regulatory requirements, are key catalysts for the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge and action beyond frontrunners. Regulatory uncertainty reduces companies' motivation to invest in the capacities needed. Governments can also support the coordination of knowledge brokering initiatives, and harmonisation and integration of methods, tools and indicators. This can be done, for example, through developing platforms and funding scientific research or initiatives that connect science, policy and practice, map gaps and bottlenecks, and create capacities in small and large companies. Such measures should address biodiversity loss and climate change as strongly linked phenomena.

Business organisations stand to benefit from strengthening their technical capacities and personnel's skills in order to better understand and address risks and opportunities related to their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and climate, which are interdependent. International and national sectoral associations, business coalitions and professional societies

can further broker knowledge, support capacity-building, and business-to-business sharing of use cases.

In addition to the work carried out to develop this report, the RESPIN project has worked closely with Biodiversa+ and other organisations to promote the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge within the business sector. In June 2026, a workshop on nature-positive finance was held in Paris, aiming to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and the financial community. The event was jointly organised by Biodiversa+, the Banque de France, RESPIN, the BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub, and the French Foundation for Biodiversity Research (FRB). The outcomes of the workshop will be published on the Biodiversa+ and RESPIN websites in 2027. These will include a joint fact sheet outlining how scientific knowledge can support businesses and financial institutions in integrating biodiversity and climate considerations into their decision-making processes.

List of abbreviations

Acronym	Full name
ACT-D	Assess, Commit, Transform and Disclose
BioAgora	Bio Knowledge Agora: Developing the Science Service for European Research and Biodiversity Policymaking
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDP	Carbon Disclosure Project
CIA	Cumulative Impact Assessment
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSRD	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
CSDDD	Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESG	Environmental, social and governance
ESVD	Ecosystem Services Valuation Database
EU	European Union
EUDR	European Union Deforestation Regulation
FRB	French Foundation for Biodiversity Research
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GLOBIO	Global biodiversity model for policy support
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
NGFS	Network for Greening the Financial System
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
RESPIN	Reinforcing Science-Policy Interfaces for integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge and policies
SBTi	Science Based Targets initiative
SBTN	Science Based Targets Network
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
Syke	Finnish Environment Institute
TCFD	Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures
TG-Data	Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UFZ	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WP	Work Package
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1. Rationale and aim

Business strategies and solutions grounded in **biodiversity and climate science are critical to support long-term business competitiveness.** This includes, for example, developing resilient business models and value chains, capable of withstanding both ecological risks and rapidly changing economic and geopolitical landscapes, especially where these dynamics often may be connected (Auer et al., 2025; Le et al., 2025; World Economic Forum, 2025; World Economic Forum, 2026).

In the past five years, the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts and trade policy uncertainties have exposed businesses to risks, particularly in relation to the disruption of complex international supply chains (Grossman et al., 2024; Younis et al., 2023). A purely reactionary approach to these shocks can divert political and business attention away from biodiversity and climate issues. Yet, according to the most recent Global Risk Report by the World Economic Forum (2026), **climate change and biodiversity loss remain among the top two most severe risks over the next decade to both society and business.** Three other environmental risks are in the top 10: critical Earth system changes (i.e., ecological tipping points), natural resource shortages, and pollution.

Business organisations simultaneously impact and depend on nature through their direct operations and those of their suppliers and partners (D'Amato et al., 2024; Silva et al., 2021; Winn and Pogutz, 2013). **Companies increasingly recognise their dependencies and impacts on natural capital**, and the strategic need to be able to appraise and manage such issues (IPBES, 2026; TNFD, 2025). Risks to business include physical (e.g. damage from extreme events such as wildfires, droughts, floods), transition (policy, market, and technology changes), and systemic risks (e.g. complex and high-impact events that affect societal safety or well-being at large) (IPBES, 2026). Importantly, the biodiversity and climate crises reinforce each other, and are also linked to pollution, land use change, and resource overexploitation. The cascading impacts of environmental problems may be transmitted via complex trade and financial networks that cross borders (Auer et al., 2025). It is thus paramount for the private sector to increase its involvement in co-governing sustainability challenges, as already highlighted by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Green Deal.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are internationally recognised authorities on biodiversity and climate issues, respectively. The platforms, established respectively in 1988 and 2012, are independent intergovernmental bodies supported by the United Nations system. **IPBES and IPCC collect and synthesise well-established evidence on climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting scenarios and potential pathways, and guiding global targets and efforts.** While grounded in natural science, this knowledge also draws on insights from other disciplines relevant to understanding and addressing these challenges, such as social sciences and economics, as well as Indigenous and local knowledge systems. Their reports are produced through scientifically rigorous, yearslong processes involving hundreds of experts worldwide, multi-stakeholder peer review, and government input to ensure scientific credibility and policy relevance. Currently, IPBES and IPCC include respectively 153 and 195 member governments. Notably, the summaries for policy-makers of each report are negotiated and approved line by line by Member States. IPBES and IPCC assessment reports inform international policy frameworks such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The reports cater to an audience of international policy-makers and provide useful general policy guidance, but their findings usually need to be contextualised in order to support specific EU-level, national or sub-

national policy-making or decision-making (Lipsanen et al., 2024; de las Heras Carles et al., 2025).

The core mandate of IPBES and IPCC is to bridge science and policy, but they recognise the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity and climate considerations across society. The most explicit effort to address business is the IPBES methodological assessment on the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (IPBES, 2026). The assessment provides guidance to examine how businesses depend on and affect biodiversity, and options to support the integration of biodiversity into decision-making by businesses and others that interact with business, including Governments, the financial sector, indigenous peoples, local communities, and civil society (Box 1).
Representatives from the private sector can engage with IPBES and IPCC by serving as an expert reviewer, author or observer. Compared to IPCC, IPBES places more emphasis on knowledge plurality, allows for-profit organisations among their observers, and organises consultations with a formal stakeholder network. IPBES has also received monetary donations from companies such as H&M, Kering and Groupe Rocher. Other opportunities for engagement, including capacity building, exist through the work of IPBES and IPCC national working groups.

Box 1. The IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment.
In February 2026, IPBES published the methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people. The report stressed the central role of businesses in creating transformative change for a just and sustainable world. Business organisations depend on healthy ecosystems for several functions that underpin productivity and continuity of operations, including the supply of raw materials and genetic resources, pollination and pest control, waste treatment, climate regulation, and nature-related recreational opportunities.

"The global economy depends heavily on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people and the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change pose growing risks to financial systems and the global economy worldwide"
(IPBES, 2026, Chapter 1, p.1)

Business activities contribute to biodiversity loss through deforestation, land-use change, resource extraction, pollution and emissions, and the introduction of invasive alien species. As many businesses are still not fully capable of measuring and responding to impacts and dependencies, the assessment provides methodological considerations. The report also emphasises that the current conditions in which business operates, including policies, incentives, technology, capacities and values need to be fundamentally changed to enable sustainable business. Changing the operating environment for business calls for coordinated action by governments, the financial system, civil society, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and businesses themselves.

A number of international initiatives have, in the past decade, focused on translating biodiversity and climate science for businesses (Table 1). The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) support organisations with assessing, disclosing and acting on climate- and nature-related risks and opportunities. Such exercises encourage businesses to think in the medium-long term through scenario analysis. The Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) is a climate risk assessment tool, mainly used by finance and regulatory bodies. The Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) and the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) provide methods for climate and nature-related target setting. The Natural Capital Protocol was developed by the Capitals Coalition to assess impacts and dependencies on natural capital. The ACT-D framework developed by Business for Nature, Capitals Coalition,

TNFD, SBTN and others, guides businesses through the various tools and frameworks. Importantly, several other organisations — among which the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) — have contributed to developing material and tools to further understand, assess and disclose climate and natural capital issues (D'Amato et al., 2024; Dinesen, 2025; UNEP-WCMC, 2025).

Table 1. Key voluntary frameworks to incorporate biodiversity and climate science in business target setting, decision-making and disclosure.

Framework	Main Focus	Audience	Primary purpose
TCFD	Climate-related financial risks	Corporates, investors	External reporting
TNFD	Nature-related risks & impacts	Corporates, investors	External reporting
SBTi	Science-based target setting for climate	Corporates	Internal decision-making and external reporting
SBTN	Science-based target setting for nature	Corporates	Internal decision-making
ACT-D	Nature strategy framework	Corporates, coalitions	Internal strategy and external reporting
NGFS	Climate risk in financial system	Central banks, regulators, corporates	Internal decision-making
Natural Capital Protocol	Valuation of natural capital	Corporates, NGOs	Internal decision-making

The uptake of the voluntary frameworks and related action frameworks in Table 1 is closely linked to reporting and due diligence requirements by public policies, such as the European Union (EU) Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), and Taxonomy for Sustainability Activities. Australia, Brazil, China, Japan and the UK are also exploring ways to integrate the TNFD considerations either in regulatory and legal processes, policy strategies, or networks and pilots, in line with Target 15 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (Bakker and Teske, 2025). Despite existing efforts, business actions and public policies on biodiversity lag behind the proliferation of initiatives and frameworks for businesses and financial institutions to measure, manage, and report on impacts and dependencies.

An important practical gap remains for business to make use of insights coming from international and large-scale scientific efforts and outputs on biodiversity and climate (Bakker and Teske, 2025; IPBES, 2026). Importantly, research shows that the business understanding of and action for biodiversity issues lags behind climate (Addison et al., 2019; EY, 2024; Hassan et al., 2022; McKinsey & Company, 2022, 2023; Zhu and Carrasco, 2025). **The aim of this report is thus to identify challenges and avenues forward to improve the uptake of IPBES and IPCC science on biodiversity and climate by business.** This effort is part of the project REinforcing Science-Policy INterfaces for integrated biodiversity and climate knowledge and policies (RESPIN), which aims to support the integration of IPBES and IPCC processes and outputs. This includes the engagement of diverse knowledge holders within IPBES and IPCC, and the uptake of IPBES and IPCC knowledge in public and private decision-making.

2. Methods

To collect data, an in-person workshop was conducted in October 2025 in Helsinki, Finland. The event brought together practitioners from international business sustainability platforms and pioneering companies, alongside representatives from science-policy interfaces (Table 2). In total, 16 organisations were invited, and 11 organisations participated, with a total of 16 people. The selection of the organisations was informed by a mapping of actors in the biodiversity governance landscape, developed in the context of the BioAgora project (D'Amato et al., 2025). This allowed us to gather an understanding of the key international and EU actors in the context of the science-policy-society landscape, with reference to business actors. Selected Nordic companies were also invited, with a focus on the food value chain. The workshop was strategically scheduled for the day preceding the European Business and Nature Summit 2025 in Helsinki, enabling organisers to capitalise on the Summit's momentum and attract participants already travelling to the city.

Table 2. Organisations represented in the workshop.

Organisation type	Organisations represented in the workshop
Science-policy interfaces	Biodiversa+, European Business & Biodiversity Platform, IPBES (Bureau), IPCC (national working group), forthcoming EU Science-Service for Biodiversity (BioAgora project), United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).
Business sustainability platforms, think tanks	Business for Nature, Capitals Coalition, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.
Companies	Arla Foods, Mandatum.

The workshop lasted 2.5 hours (Agenda in the Appendix). Two representatives from, respectively, the IPCC national working group and IPBES Bureau provided a brief overview of the activities and outputs conducted by the platforms. A facilitated group discussion followed, with participants splitting into three groups. Each group was asked to discuss the following questions.

1. *How are IPBES and/or IPCC outputs considered in business? Share an example when IPCC/IPBES supported decision-making.*
   1a. Which knowledge was used (source, knowledge type)?
   1b. At which stage of decision-making was the knowledge used? e.g., agenda and target setting, impact assessment and disclosure, response actions or innovation, monitoring.
   1c. Which factors enabled successful use of knowledge?

2. *What are the challenges in using IPBES and IPCC knowledge in business, and how could relevance and usability be improved?*
   2a. Consider one or more issue: content (e.g., abstract *vs* practical, sector-specificity, knowledge gaps); format (e.g., reports length, tailored summaries, language); delivery (e.g. personal networks, events, mailing lists, social media); capabilities (e.g. personnel and other resources, intermediaries); operating environment (e.g. geopolitics, economy, regulations, culture); other.

3. *Who can strengthen the use of IPBES / IPCC outputs within and beyond your organization?*
   3a. What could you or your organization do?
   3b. Which other actors or networks are key to fostering uptake? e.g. industry platforms, science-policy intermediaries, regulators, investors.

The group discussions were recorded and transcribed. During the discussions, participants were invited to write down their thoughts on sticky notes, which were also collected for further analysis. The insights were collected through audio recordings that were subsequently transcribed and anonymised. The transcriptions, along with sticky notes from the workshop, were summarised using qualitative content analysis (Bernard, 2016). Throughout the development of the deliverable, collaboration with Biodiversa+ on the topic of fostering the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge by business further supported the organisation of the workshop and the analysis.

3. Key insights from the workshop

The insights are organised as follows. Section 3.1 provides an overview of how businesses use IPBES and IPCC outputs. Section 3.2 outlines the key challenges limiting the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge within the private sector. Section 3.3 explores opportunities to enhance the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge, including a breakdown of relevant actors and actions.

Box 2. The use of IPBES and IPCC outputs by business.

- **Strategic agenda or target** setting, benchmarking.
- **Scenario analyses** of physical and policy risks, datasets and metrics (mainly IPCC).
- **Understanding the business case**, dependencies and risks (especially IPBES).
- **Stakeholder dialogues** and client pitches to frame megatrends.
- **Authoritative referencing** in reports, events, and in communications.

3.1 Use of IPBES and IPCC outputs in business

IPBES and IPCC are used for strategic agenda or target setting (especially for climate targets) and industry benchmarking. In addition, they are used for communication purposes, as authoritative references providing the state of play in terms of biodiversity and climate science and to frame global megatrends in stakeholder dialogues. Recent regulatory pressures have pushed businesses to integrate biodiversity and climate science at the operational level. However, climate science is utilised more in concrete applications, while biodiversity science is rather used to contextualise the meaning of biodiversity loss for sectors and companies, and to strengthen the business case through examples of companies' impacts and dependencies on nature.

"For many companies, the IPCC reports are very useful for setting baselines and having conversations at a relatively high level. It is useful for the Board to say, at the global level, this is where the world is going. So how do we put in place the right measures to make sure that we can be a viable business in 2030 in these scenarios? And then there's deeper conversation around what does that mean for my company, which then requires getting a consultancy to look at your particular company's case and develop something that is tailored." [Participant in group A]

"TCFD and TNFD is something that really starts these businesses into looking forward, past three to five years, and actually looking forward to 25, for example, or medium-term type things as well. IPCC scenarios have been the key factor in modelling 40-50-60 years, but usually we don't use the IPCC directly. We have someone like digest them beforehand for context like NGFS." [Participant in group B]

"It's more of a grounding a conversation quite a lot of time. So it's bringing partners together or communicating a lot of time, specific outputs are used pretty much to get everyone on the same page." [Participant in group B]

Scenarios from IPCC provide the basis to forecast physical (e.g. damage from extreme events such as wildfires, droughts, floods), transition (policy, market, technology changes), and

systemic risks (e.g. complex and high-impact events that affect societal safety or well-being at large). IPCC scenarios can, for example, be useful for carbon pricing models to understand uncertainty under different climate policy scenarios, meaning the range of possible carbon prices and thus the cost of emitting greenhouse gases, which guide investment decisions.
Guidelines and metrics can also be drawn from IPCC. IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories are used as a foundation for building corporate GHG inventories for reporting and compliance purposes, for example, through frameworks such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14064 or GHG Protocol. IPCC guidelines provide sector-specific methods for estimating emissions, which ensure consistency and comparability across organisations and countries. Climate inventories can further feed into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) by integrating climate change considerations into project planning and evaluation. Companies also use models or databases (e.g. Ecosystem Services Valuation Database ESVD; Global biodiversity model for policy support - GLOBIO) that incorporate IPCC scenario assumptions and IPBES-based biodiversity models to assess the biodiversity impact of a project, to estimate values for natural capital accounting, or to inform nature-related risk assessments. However, IPBES and biodiversity science are consistently less operationalised compared to climate, although some aspects of biodiversity may be integrated when modelling climate issues. Typically, IPBES and IPCC information is not used directly, but companies rely on voluntary frameworks developed by business sustainability platforms and coalitions (Table 1), which adapt the science to economic and financial contexts for internal decision-making or external communication purposes. IPBES and IPCC scenarios and metrics are nonetheless foundational to these frameworks.

3.2 Challenges to the uptake of IPBES and IPCC insights

Box 3. Challenges to the uptake of IPBES and IPCC.

- **International reports are not tailored to a business audience**, which is not sufficiently engaged in national-level dissemination.
- **Limited in-house capacities** cannot address information overload, especially in smaller companies.
- **Departmental siloes** result in knowledge remaining confined to communication, compliance, or legal teams.
- **Consultancies are largely relied on** to contextualise science and crunch data, leading to an inflation of knowledge brokers.
- **Biodiversity knowledge uptake lags behind climate** due to complexity, context-specificity and lack of universal metrics and targets.
- **Inconsistent regulatory pressures**, combined with a lack of direct customer or financing pressures, significantly undermine the business case.

IPBES and IPCC reports are notoriously long, technical and information-dense, while their summaries address primarily policy-makers at international level. The lack of readily available business-relevant material from IPCC or IPBES makes it difficult for companies to digest biodiversity and climate science and further operationalise it into tailored strategies or response actions. Some key frameworks have been crucial in translating and operationalising IPBES and IPCC science for business consumption (Table 1). However, limited in-house company expertise, especially among smaller companies, widens the practicality gap. This leads to the need to rely on third parties to contextualise that information, for example, by assessing company impacts and dependencies on climate and nature, and related risks.

"If I put myself in the business shoes, there's so many [IPBES and IPCC] great products, where you're kind of sitting there being like, what do you want me to do with it? It's really difficult to imagine unless you've been driven by some sort of disclosure or some level of regulation. Then you start having to find the need for it. But I just, I think it's really difficult for them to make it tangible." [Participant in group B]

"The assumption that companies are using IPCC more than IPBES, I think it's fair, mainly because a lot more companies are more in tune with climate than they are with their relationship with nature and biodiversity. First of all, climate is a lot more understood, is a lot more mainstream […] And for a lot of companies, they still don't really have the metrics to measure [biodiversity]. It's very difficult for them to understand how their operations impacts, you know, bees, birds, microorganism. […]. But they understand CO2 equivalent, they understand carbon pricing, offsets" [Participant in group B]

"Large organizations they've had the resources to throw a 20-30 person team at this. And look at the reports in detail. But then the challenge comes, you've got like an expert team, and then translating it up to board level governance, then translating it down to the wider business and operational level, and that is very tough." [Participant in group C]

Consultancies help companies apply biodiversity and climate science, leveraging the tools and frameworks described in Table 1, to conduct scenario analysis, map dependencies and risks, and calculate natural capital values. This information can be further integrated into decision-making, as well as in mandatory disclosure or broader voluntary environmental reporting standards (e.g., the Global Reporting Initiative - GRI, the Carbon Disclosure Project - CDP). However, outsourcing data collection, modelling, and validation services represents an additional cost for companies.

The fragmented landscape of frameworks and of brokering actors results in multiple and possibly different interpretations available to the business community. One related issue is the diversity and inflation in terminology used. Frameworks such as the ones described in Table 1 tend to use terms such as natural capital or true cost accounting, which are more readily understandable by business, albeit emphasising the transactional relation between people and nature. IPBES, instead, refers to nature's contributions to people, which is used more in policy and academic environments to reflect the non-material, relational value of nature, but may remain less operational for business organisations.

Biodiversity loss remains less familiar to businesses compared to climate change. In addition to being a more recently recognised urgency in policy and business, biodiversity is harder to operationalise due to its complex and local nature. Climate change mitigation in particular can be assessed with a single metric, because all major greenhouse gases can be converted into a common unit expressed in carbon dioxide (CO_2) equivalent. This creates a standardised currency for measuring and comparing impacts and for setting climate targets, such as the 1.5 degrees outlined in the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015). Biodiversity is multidimensional, including the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems, as well as their functional roles to ecological integrity and human well-being. These aspects cannot be aggregated into one universal metric without losing critical information.

"You hear very often that we need to standardise everything we need to have one currency for biodiversity, as you have, carbon dioxide equivalents. And of course in an ideal world that would be wonderful and nice. But I think we need to accept that we cannot have this one currency because biodiversity is something different. So we need to accept this and use knowledge from different sources." [Participant in group B]

"Businesses do appreciate when there is a clear policy instrument so that there's a level playing field and clarity in what they need to do. And again, this is now shifting, so that then leads to a lot of confusion. People just started to understand what was required for CSRD [the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive] early and then it changes again." [Participant in group C]

"It's very difficult for the companies to act now because their main incentives are built around what are the policies like at the moment, or how we can see developing it within the next few years. And what's the market situation doing right now. It's very much a question of timing your investments and is it business wise, worthwhile to be a leader here, a front runner and take on the increased risk that

comes with that. And you don't want to risk being too soon. OK, the policies didn't come and now we have this stuff and it's too expensive." [Participant in group A]

Finally, companies' interest in conducting assessments about biodiversity and climate is largely regulatory-driven, for example by the EU CSRD as originally adopted. Weakening regulatory pressures in the current economic and geopolitical environment have in part damped companies' motivation to invest in the knowledge and data capacities needed for biodiversity and climate action. In larger companies with resources to develop biodiversity and climate competences in-house, such competences still may remain confined to communication, compliance, or legal teams. It is difficult to convey information to other departments or to upper management in a meaningful way, not least because of difficulties in communicating uncertainty.

3.3 Key actors and actions for improving the uptake of IPBES and IPCC insights

Box 4. Avenues to improve the uptake of biodiversity and climate science.

- **Disclosure and target-setting frameworks**, voluntary and mandatory, make biodiversity and climate science actionable and enable business strategic thinking.
- **Ambitious and consistent policies**, including disclosure and regulations, are key catalysts to motivate laggers and coordinate actors.
- **Finance and value-chain expectations**, such as clauses in project financing or procurement contracts, steer the behaviour of developers and suppliers.
- **Sectoral and business platforms and professional societies** are critical to brokering knowledge and building capacities through coordinated initiatives.
- **Business-to-business** knowledge sharing can support sectoral uptake.
- **Board members and business leaders** can drive change by creating and supporting cross-departmental capacities within the organisation.
- **National science-policy bodies** can foster tailored communication and capacity-building with business.
- **Scientific institutions** should strengthen interdisciplinarity and communication skills, and sustainability literacy should be integrated in business education.
- **Media** can help disseminate and contextualise IPCC/IPBES outputs at national level.

The uptake of biodiversity and climate science by business is underpinned by an ecosystem of actors, which, at different levels, contribute to digest and transform knowledge for business consumption (Figure 1). Importantly, IPBES and IPCC do not produce pioneering or novel science, but syntheses of well-established evidence. The summaries for policy-makers of IPBES and IPCC assessments and reports are heavily negotiated with governments, and are written to cater to a global audience of policy-makers. During negotiations, countries must agree on carefully crafted wording for issues that carry different political and economic implications across regions and sectors. As a result, the final text reflects not only the underlying scientific evidence, but national priorities and contexts. This represents a barrier to tailoring official summaries for separate audience groups, such as business-ready materials. Furthermore, because of their international nature, the full reports cannot examine too deeply national or industry-specific issues.

However, other IPBES and IPCC products, including the full reports themselves, communications and presentations, are not negotiated and already are used by actors beyond policy. Further improving applicability of IPBES and IPCC products for business could be pursued by developing and improving regional assessments and methodological guidance, and by embedding sector-level information, business-relevant policy analyses, and actionable options in the reports. Improved data accessibility is also essential for assessing company-level business cases and operational risks. The Task Group on Data Support for Climate

Change Assessments (TG-Data) within IPCC is strategically placed to support this, as it provides guidance on data curation, availability, transparency and usability.

The role of voluntary frameworks developed by business sustainability platforms and networks has been and will remain central in translating biodiversity and climate into actionable insights for business. This is not least because such frameworks have more flexibility than IPBES and IPCC regarding the language and concepts they can employ to convey messages to a business audience. Voluntary frameworks enable companies to move beyond mere reporting, encouraging them to consider biodiversity and climate issues strategically and to examine material impacts and dependencies in greater depth.

"Ensure that that the language is rooted in business reality. That it doesn't just become this kind of echo chamber of experts talking to each other" [Participant in group C]

"With every report, there are like tons of organizations that, credible, not credible, that have, you know, interpretations. So yes, we should continue to do that. I think businesses value that. But I think if we really want uptake, we need to get the only stakeholder that's not doing that, governments, to be like what does this mean for companies in my country? How do we translate this science into practical policies? That will really drive the companies to act." [Participant in group A]

"And of course each organization, each individual have to interpret what is written in those reports. So we talked about the multiple voices, and I of course understand that. But then again how to avoid it? I mean the organization has to assimilate and interpret it in their operations and systems." [Participant in group A]

The downscaling of IPBES and IPCC knowledge is more likely to happen effectively at national level. National working groups for IPBES and IPCC, as well as other science-policy actors, already translate policy-makers summaries in local languages and conduct national level stakeholder engagement in the form of interviews and dissemination events. Compared to IPBES and IPCC, national multipliers are also allowed more flexibility to engage with the business community.

Science translation and simplification is needed at different business scales and levels — from SMEs to larger companies, and from management to operational — including clear communication of knowledge gaps and uncertainties. At the same time, businesses must build in-house and cross-departmental expertise on biodiversity and climate. Board members and leaders can drive change by allocating ad hoc positions in the organisation and by supporting the development of in-house capacities. Proactive individuals within companies matter, but their impacts remain limited without organisational backing. This also requires improving inter- and trans-disciplinarity skills taught in higher education curricula, and embedding biodiversity and climate notions in business and management studies.

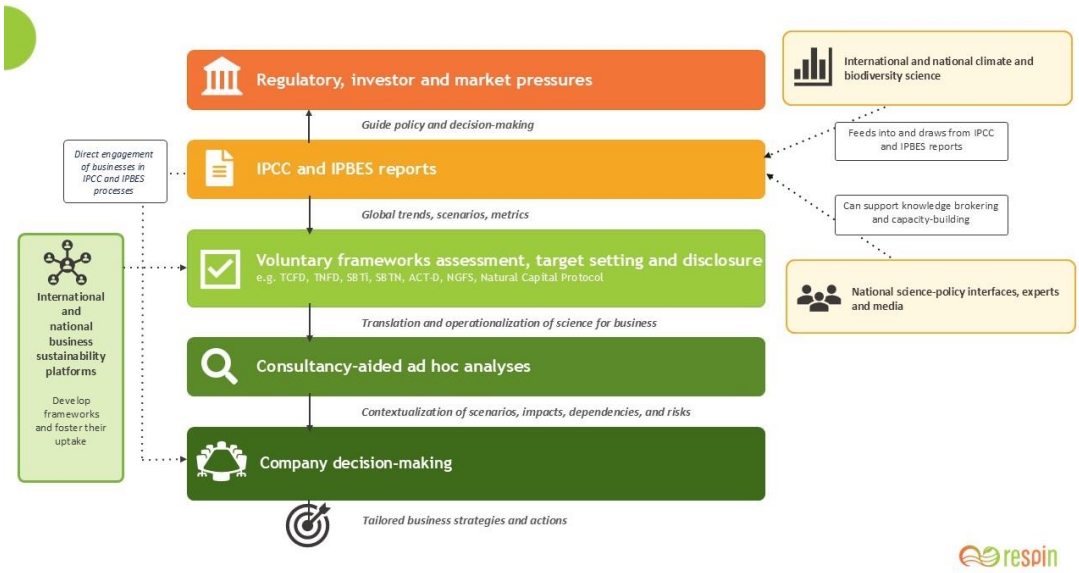


Figure 1. The ecosystem of actors fostering the business uptake of biodiversity and climate science.

The operating environment is a key motivator for companies to proactively engage with biodiversity and climate. Companies had already begun to respond to forthcoming policy requirements such as those put in place by the EU CSRD, particularly as originally conceived prior to the 2025 modifications. However, with a changing policy landscape, companies are becoming more uncertain about committing agendas and resources to sustainability issues. National and local governments should engage in dialogue with businesses and incentivise landscape-level approaches, looking beyond sectors or value-chains.

"You always have the people, the businesses at the frontier that are wanting to push the boundaries and go beyond and that's good, but that will always be a very small percentage of businesses. And so the way to bring the mass along is the finance and policy enforcement, carrots and stick." [Participant in group C]

"The implication of 1.5 degrees was something that was going to have global ramifications for policy, for investments, for so many things in a way that perhaps other reports haven't quite had. So I think because of just that political gravitas that that report had, an implication that was going to be so widespread, it also made it something that businesses could not ignore. And I will say it actually led to an agenda setting discussions around how do businesses want to survive in a 1.5 degrees future and what investments they need to make" [Participant in group A]

"Businesses are sometimes impotent to take first step, right? But if they see their peers doing it, then it's easier." [Participant in group C]

Although policy remains the main engine for moving climate change and biodiversity loss from a communication issue to a strategic and operational priority, growing requirements from finance and value-chain expectations also play an important role. Banks, investors, and development finance institutions may require project developers to meet certain environmental requests, such as assessing risks and impacts. Such conditions influence which projects secure funding and under what terms, and they can steer planning toward less harmful project designs and more robust mitigation of impacts. Similarly, value chain expectations may be formalised through sustainability requirements in procurement contracts. Large companies use sustainability clauses to set enforceable standards for suppliers, shaping how smaller actors operate by requiring alignment with environmental, social, and governance expectations across the supply chain.

Table 2. A summary of the challenges and examples of ways forward.

Challenges	Avenues forward
IPBES and IPCC reports lack tailoring to business	Disclosure and target-setting frameworks make biodiversity and climate science actionable for business.
	Business-to-business knowledge sharing can support sectoral uptake.
	Sectoral platforms and business coalitions broker knowledge and capacities.
	Media can further contextualise biodiversity and climate considerations at a national or sectoral level.
Limited in-house capacities	Board members and leaders can invest in developing capacities within the firm.
	Business-to-business knowledge sharing can support capacity development.
	National science-policy representatives can organise or contribute to capacity building initiatives.
Departmental siloes	Board members and leaders can foster inter-departmental exchange and capacity-building.
	Scientific institutions can equip scientists and businesspeople with skills for meaningful interactions.
Inflation of knowledge brokers	Ambitious and consistent policies can foster the harmonisation of frameworks and tools.
	Sectoral platforms and business coalitions can support the harmonisation of frameworks and tools.
Biodiversity less familiar than climate	Disclosure and target-setting frameworks can emphasise biodiversity relevance vis à vis climate.
	Finance and value-chain expectations can emphasise biodiversity relevance vis à vis climate.
Insufficient institutional pressures	Ambitious and consistent policies, particularly disclosure and compliance requirements, are key catalysts to motivate companies.
	Finance and value-chain expectations reinforce the business case for biodiversity and climate.
	Sectoral platforms and business coalitions can create peer-pressure.

4. Recommendations

Translating biodiversity and climate knowledge into tailored, actionable and sector-specific insight is key to mobilising the business community in co-governing sustainability challenges. Companies can address their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity through agenda setting, operations, investments, value chains, and societal influence (IPBES, 2026). For example, manufacturing companies can draw on sector-specific biodiversity and climate considerations to evaluate operational or supply chain vulnerabilities and set strategies and measurable targets. In the finance sector, IPCC scenarios and IPBES guidance can be used to assess portfolio risks associated with physical climate impacts and nature loss, and to identify new investment opportunities in nature-positive solutions. This in turn informs lending criteria and supports the development of robust environmental disclosure. To make biodiversity and climate science usable in practice, however, there is a need for joint efforts by multiple actors: science-policy knowledge brokers and business leadership in primis, as well as more broadly financiers, sectoral platforms, academia, governments, and media.

IPBES, IPCC and their national multipliers can foster uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge via product tailoring, outreach, and participation opportunities for the business community. IPBES and IPCC reports and summaries are intended for an international audience of researchers and policy-makers, which makes it difficult to effectively reach diverse user groups. This challenge has also been observed in the uptake of IPBES and IPCC outputs by EU-level science–policy interfaces and subnational actors (Lipsanen et al., 2024; de las Heras Carles et al.
, 2025). Both organisations are continuously working to improve stakeholder outreach in English and other languages, through international networks, national multipliers, and media. Multipliers include, among others, national IPBES and IPCC focal points, representatives of ministries, of national biodiversity and climate panels, and of environmental agencies and research institutes.

Additional opportunities to increase the visibility and utility of IPBES and IPCC products for businesses include embedding, where feasible, sector-specific information, business-relevant policy analyses, and actionable options in global — and especially regional — assessments. The continuous provision and improvement of data accessibility and methodological or technical guidance are also important. In collaboration with EU and national platforms whose mission is to engage businesses on biodiversity, IPBES and IPCC can continue to foster the participation of business actors in their processes, for example as authors, experts and observers. Such actors may include industry associations, chambers of commerce, or sectoral alliances.

National multipliers closely involved in IPBES and IPCC processes, such as national working groups, national research institutes and science–policy platforms, can play an important role in translating biodiversity and climate science for the national business community, and facilitating engagement with business actors. Knowledge translation and outreach efforts must target diverse business types (small, medium and large actors) and roles (e.g., from managerial to operational levels). It is important to stress the mutually reinforcing nature of biodiversity and climate, and leverage synergies in activities between IPBES and IPCC.

Policymaking is key to creating an operating environment that encourages businesses to commit to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss, and can support the coordination of knowledge brokering initiatives and tools. Voluntary action is not sufficient to achieve the extent of change needed. Public policies, such as regulations, incentives and capacity building — of which the latter may be especially beneficial for smaller companies — are strong drivers for companies to understand and respond to climate change and biodiversity loss. For example, mandatory disclosure policies and regulatory recognition of existing voluntary disclosure frameworks and tools drive their uptake by companies beyond frontrunners, and thus also foster the uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge.

To be effective, such policies must be aligned across sectors and consistently implemented from the international to local level and across time during different policy mandates. The workshop participants reported that by easing or delaying some CSRD requirements, the 2025 Omnibus amendments to the EU CSRD have tempered companies' proactiveness in building their capacity to understand and address impacts and dependencies on nature. Larger companies are still likely to maintain voluntary disclosure efforts that align with the original Directive requirements, because of the costs they incurred in preparing for compliance. Market, investor and partner expectations remain the only pressures on small and mid-sized firms that fell out of scope of the Omnibus.

While expert intermediaries are important for translating biodiversity and climate science into actionable business knowledge and targets, there is a need for coordination of existing and emerging initiatives, as well as for ways to mitigate the risks resulting from a highly fragmented landscape of interpretations. Avenues forward include, for example, continuous mapping of

frameworks and tools, including overlaps and gaps, and promoting meta-frameworks, with particular focus on considering biodiversity and climate issues in an integrated manner. The EU Business and Biodiversity Platform could have an important function in facilitating coordination, considering its aim to engage with businesses, financial institutions and supporting networks, and address technical and organisational bottlenecks. International funding schemes, such as Horizon Europe, are also central to connect science, policy and practice, to support the creation of open access data, and the harmonisation and integration of methods, tools and indicators.

The development of biodiversity and climate tools and metrics available to businesses is advancing rapidly (UNEP-WCMC, 2025), bringing about a need to strike a balance between harmonisation and effectiveness. Effectiveness includes the ability of tools to cover multiple geographies and impact/dependence categories, to produce accurate results, and to discern clear links between business actions and outcomes (IPBES, 2026). This is particularly important for biodiversity, which is acknowledged to be multi-dimensional and context-specific, and which no single metric can satisfactorily capture in full (Dinesen, 2025). Importantly, both policies and coordinating activities should address the fact that business understanding of and action for biodiversity severely lags behind climate issues. As discussed in our workshop and demonstrated by existing research, even major corporations, which acknowledge climate change with concrete targets, fail to do so for biodiversity issues (Addison et al., 2019; EY, 2024; Hassan et al., 2022; McKinsey & Company, 2022, 2023; Zhu and Carrasco, 2025).

Business organisations stand to benefit from understanding and addressing their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and climate, which are also intertwined with geopolitical risks. Integrated approaches such as nature-based solutions can address both biodiversity loss and climate change simultaneously (IPBES, 2024), while also potentially enhancing competitive advantage and reducing risks other than environmental ones. For example, biodiversity-positive, nature-based solutions can ensure continuity of operations by protecting industrial sites from extreme weather events and ensuring long-term access to raw materials. They can also create new market opportunities in areas such as carbon credits and biodiversity offsets. All the while, companies that act proactively in disclosing and addressing biodiversity and climate issues may be better positioned to meet future regulatory requirements or voluntary standards, attract investment, and maintain customer and partner trust.

Furthermore, there is increasing understanding that intertwined geopolitical and environmental risks should also be managed through integrated solutions that strengthen resilience across societies, economies, and networks (Auer et al., 2025; Le et al., 2025; World Economic Forum, 2025; World Economic Forum, 2026). For example, circular economy approaches are increasingly framed as a way for countries and firms to sidestep interruptions of material and resource flows resulting from crises such as the Covid pandemic or military conflicts (Hartley et al., 2024; Le et al., 2025). Integrated scenario planning and risk management exercises can help prepare for diverse contingencies. Combining biodiversity and climate data with financial and geopolitical metrics, albeit technically challenging, would enable more robust decision-making.

It remains difficult to quantify indirect benefits of sustainable approaches against the cost efficiency-driven models rewarded in the current operating environment, for which direct financial benefits are more visible. Holistic risk management is complex, with many firms unable to integrate different risk models, meaning that opportunities to seek joint solutions remain largely unexplored. Importantly, proprietary tools and data developed by practitioners are costly and less likely to be subject to feedback and verification by independent actors (Bakker and Teske, 2025; Irvine-Broque and Dempsey, 2023). Scientific literature itself, on the other hand, often remains inaccessible to businesses (IPBES, 2026), which calls for

enhancing open science and the ability of scientists to communicate complex information to different audiences.

Several businesses have limited in-house resources, as emerged from the workshop. To further increase knowledge uptake, cross-departmental capacity-building is needed, focusing on improving familiarity with biodiversity and its important interdependencies with climate change and other global trends, and on understanding and communicating risks and uncertainties. Staffing ecological and multidisciplinary expertise within the organisation, when possible, would support this process (Bakker and Teske, 2025). International and national sectoral platforms, business coalitions and professional societies can further broker knowledge, support capacity-building, and business-to-business sharing of use cases.

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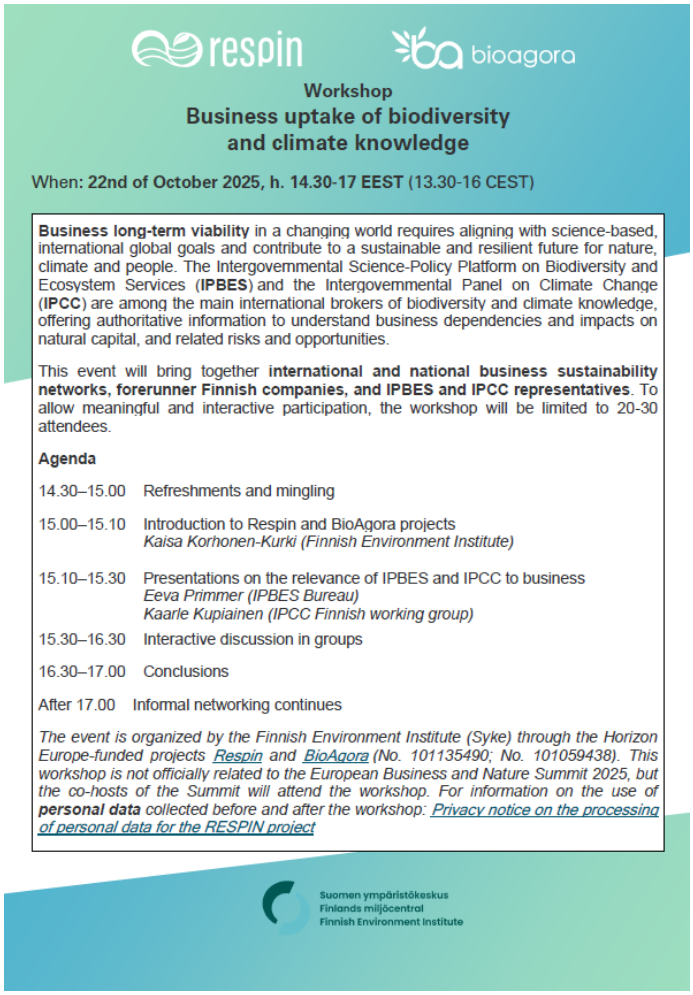
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Appendix

Agenda of the workshop during which the data was collected, held in October 2025.



respin bioagora

Workshop

Business uptake of biodiversity and climate knowledge

When: **22nd of October 2025, h. 14.30-17 EEST** (13.30-16 CEST)

Business long-term viability in a changing world requires aligning with science-based, international global goals and contribute to a sustainable and resilient future for nature, climate and people. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**IPBES**) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**) are among the main international brokers of biodiversity and climate knowledge, offering authoritative information to understand business dependencies and impacts on natural capital, and related risks and opportunities.

This event will bring together **international and national business sustainability networks, forerunner Finnish companies, and IPBES and IPCC representatives**. To allow meaningful and interactive participation, the workshop will be limited to 20-30 attendees.

Agenda

14.30–15.00 Refreshments and mingling

15.00–15.10 Introduction to Respin and BioAgora projects
Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki (Finnish Environment Institute)

15.10–15.30 Presentations on the relevance of IPBES and IPCC to business
Eeva Primmer (IPBES Bureau)
Kaarle Kupiainen (IPCC Finnish working group)

15.30–16.30 Interactive discussion in groups

16.30–17.00 Conclusions

After 17.00 Informal networking continues

The event is organized by the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) through the Horizon Europe-funded projects Respin and BioAgora (No. 101135490; No. 101059438). This workshop is not officially related to the European Business and Nature Summit 2025, but the co-hosts of the Summit will attend the workshop. For information on the use of ***personal data*** *collected before and after the workshop: Privacy notice on the processing of personal data for the RESPIN project*

Suomen ympäristökeskus
Finlands miljöcentral
Finnish Environment Institute