

Business for Biodiversity and Climate: Leveraging Insights from IPCC and IPBES

Climate change and biodiversity loss are reshaping markets, regulations, supply chains, and investor expectations. Therefore, to thrive in a changing world, businesses need to take bold, science-based action to align with global goals, responding to climate change and biodiversity loss. The IPBES and IPCC assessments offer scientifically grounded information to understand risks, unlock innovation, and help businesses spot emerging opportunities, and lead the transition to a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Call for action

- **Integrate biodiversity and climate considerations into core business strategies** to support long-term business growth, sectoral resilience and economic sustainability.
- **Leverage knowledge assessed and synthesised by IPBES and IPCC** to reduce impact across operations and value chains, set scientifically robust targets and transparently disclose dependencies, impacts and progress on nature and climate.
- **Align business strategies and actions with global frameworks** such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement to maximise business contributions to tackling the interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.
- **Collectively take timely action** to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and reduce GHG emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goal.

What are IPCC and IPBES, and why are they important

- The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) and the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) are internationally recognised bodies that **provide authoritative, policy-relevant, and scientifically rigorous assessments** on climate change and biodiversity, respectively. Both are independent intergovernmental bodies supported by the United Nations system.
- Their **technical reports** are produced through a transparent and inclusive process that involves hundreds of volunteer experts globally assessing the latest scientific and grey literature. Drafts are publicly reviewed to ensure **rigour and scientific integrity**.
- A key strength of both platforms is their **intergovernmental nature, which ensures legitimacy and transparency, through processes** such as **approval** of the summary for policymakers by their members (governments) – 195 for the IPCC (as of 30/05/2025) and 150 for IPBES (as of 30/05/2025). Their assessment reports **inform international policy frameworks** such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- **Businesses are recognised by both platforms** as essential actors in responding to the climate and biodiversity crises. Their reports offer evidence, scenarios, and methodologies that businesses can use to align their strategies with science-based targets and global goals.

Why are IPCC and IPBES relevant to business?

- **Shaping policy and regulation:** The findings of the IPCC and IPBES reports can influence the development of new international and national policies and regulations that shape markets, such as carbon pricing mechanisms, stricter environmental regulations, and incentives for renewable energy and can identify and assess both risks and opportunities for businesses. For example, the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services informed the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the [EU's Nature Restoration Law](#). Similarly, the [European Climate Law](#) (EU's commitment to climate neutrality by 2050) is heavily based on information from IPCC reports.
- **Influencing investor behaviour:** With the rise of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, the IPCC and IPBES reports provide key insights into climate- and nature-related risks and opportunities, guiding capital flows toward more sustainable business models (e.g., reports from [Network for Greening the Financial System](#) are often based on IPCC and IPBES reports and findings).
- **Guiding frameworks for business action and disclosure:** The scientific evidence provided by IPCC and IPBES informs key frameworks. For instance, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), that guide businesses in identifying, assessing, disclosing, and acting on climate and nature-related risks, and aligning strategies with global sustainability goals. The ongoing IPBES methodological assessment of the impact and dependency of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (the "[IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment](#)"; see box 1) will further strengthen this knowledge base, offering tailored guidance for businesses to contribute to global biodiversity goals.

Box 1. Upcoming IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment

IPBES is currently undertaking a [methodological assessment of the impact and dependency of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people](#) (business and biodiversity assessment), which will be considered by the 12th meeting of the IPBES Plenary in February 2026. The assessment will categorise the dependencies and impacts of business and financial institutions on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people, which incorporates ecosystem services and other analogous concepts, including in relation to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It will assess methods for measuring direct dependencies and impacts and, where appropriate, indirect dependencies and impacts, and will assess options for actions by businesses and by others, including Governments, the financial sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and civil society, that interact with business.

How can businesses integrate the outcomes of IPCC and IPBES assessments?

- **Understand dependencies and impacts on nature and climate:** IPCC and IPBES assessments identify the key contributors to climate change and the primary threats to biodiversity, respectively, and evaluate the significance of these factors at various scales. This information enables businesses to examine how their operations and value chains affect biodiversity and ecosystem services, how they depend on them, and the potential risks they face from climate change and biodiversity loss – particularly in sectors with high nature dependency such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and fossil fuels ([IPBES Transformative Change Assessment, KM9](#)). The **upcoming IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment** will be especially instrumental, offering detailed classifications and methodologies for businesses to measure and understand these dependencies and impacts throughout their value chains. IPBES assessments also provide detailed classifications of ecosystem services and biodiversity indicators that businesses could utilise to map their interactions with nature. The IPCC offers [guidance](#) for businesses to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions, information to [evaluate the impacts](#) of those emissions on the climate system, and the [potential climate-related risks](#) (both physical and transition) to business operations, supply chains, and value chains.
- **Integrate biodiversity and climate into business strategies:** Businesses can integrate biodiversity and climate considerations into their core business strategies, including setting targets for reducing negative impacts, managing their risks, increasing positive contributions for nature and climate, and transparently reporting on progress. Leveraging IPBES's call for integration on biodiversity and climate action and IPCC's decarbonization emphasis, businesses can prioritise actions with synergistic benefits such as nature-based solutions (NbS; see box 2).
- **Collaborate and work in partnerships:** Businesses can work with governments, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples and local communities to align their actions with global sustainability goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement and targets described in national plans such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For example, public-private partnerships in the water sector have been an important vehicle for financing investments to meet the SDGs ([IPBES Global Assessment SPM, D4](#)).

Box 2. Nature-based Solutions: Integrated Action for Nature and Climate

Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer businesses a powerful avenue for developing actions that can simultaneously deliver benefits for biodiversity, climate and society ([IPBES Global Assessment SPM, D8, D9](#)). For instance, a company compensating for its unavoidable operational emissions through tree planting could restore degraded native woodlands with native species instead of planting fast-growing monocultures. This NbS approach not only sequesters carbon, but improves natural habitats, soil health, water regulation and offers social benefits for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This integrated approach, informed by IPBES and IPCC insights, delivers more comprehensive and resilient outcomes than single-objective actions.

- **Inspire Innovation:** Businesses play a crucial role in driving systemic change by investing in technologies that could reduce biodiversity loss, support restoration, and advance climate solutions such as renewable energy, clean technologies, and NbS with co-benefits for nature, climate and society ([IPBES Transformative Change SPM, B3, C1; IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report SPM C.7](#)).
- **Increase transparency:** Businesses are being asked by investors to publicly disclose environmental information and adopt transparent reporting practices to enhance accountability and inform stakeholder decision-making ([IPBES Global Assessment SPM: IPCC WGII 2022 C.5.1](#)). See box 3.
- **Align financial investments:** Businesses play a crucial role in addressing financial gaps for biodiversity, climate and sustainability. They can contribute by halting investments in activities that contribute to the climate and/or biodiversity crises, investing in activities with potential to reduce harm and/or have positive impacts, adopting sustainable finance instruments, and adapting business models to reflect ecological and economic interconnections as highlighted in the IPBES Nexus Assessment and the IPCC reports.

Box 3. Transparency and Disclosure: A Business Priority

Clear and transparent disclosure of a company's impacts and dependencies on climate and biodiversity is a strategic requirement for credibility, risk management, and access to sustainable finance. Frameworks like the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TNFD), the [Science Based Targets initiative](#) (SBTi), and the [Science Based Targets Network](#) (SBTN) are increasingly adopted and require science-based corporate reporting.

IPBES and IPCC assessments offer robust scientific foundations to improve reporting practices, helping businesses to:

- Identify material impacts and dependencies.
- Understand links between their operations/supply chains and major biodiversity loss or climate drivers.
- Assess risks and opportunities based on global scientific scenarios.
- Set and report on aligned targets using recognised methodologies.

Improving the quality, traceability, and scope of environmental and carbon reporting is key to building trust, meeting stakeholder expectations, and enabling the transition toward a truly sustainable economy.

How can businesses engage with both IPBES and IPCC?

- Contribute expertise and knowledge through IPBES stakeholder consultations or, where eligible, by serving as an expert reviewer or author. See factsheet on *IPBES and IPCC explained: why and how to engage as an expert*.
- **Promote the uptake of IPBES and IPCC findings** in the business community.
- Businesses can use IPBES and IPCC evidence to **advocate for stronger environmental policies and incentives**, supporting the transition toward more sustainable economic systems.
- Businesses can make voluntary **financial contributions** to IPBES, acknowledging its crucial role in delivering objective scientific assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

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Funded by
the European Union



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This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101135490. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the EU nor the REA can be held responsible for them.