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From sustainability to resilience: Integrating nature into business in a post-pandemic world

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Insight June 2020

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Getting ready for transformation

While the coronavirus pandemic continues to hold much of the world in its thrall, a growing number of businesses and governments are cautiously preparing for what lies on the other side.

We don't yet have all the answers to what comes next, but we do know that 2020 – the UN-styled Biodiversity Super Year – has put **nature in the spotlight** for very different reasons than originally intended.

The demand to see the pandemic as a wake-up call to **re-examine our relationship with nature** is growing. Forward-thinking businesses will be listening and reframing it in terms of responsibility, risk and sustainability: "What part can we play? What risks do our business and value chain face? And what will make us more resilient?"

The schedule has changed, but the agenda is the same – and more relevant than ever

The nature crisis has not gone away. Neither has the urgency for agreeing new and ambitious biodiversity goals or making decisions on how to better integrate biodiversity into economic planning. The international process continues:

- **IUCN's World Conservation Congress**, which should have been in full swing, has now been rescheduled for January 2021 in Marseille, France.
- **The Convention of Biological Diversity's 15th Conference of the Parties** will also probably occur in 2021 (although no date has been set).
- **The 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC** (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) will now take place in November 2021 in Glasgow, UK.
- **The Science Based Targets Network** aims to release interim guidance for businesses seeking to align with societal goals for nature later this year.



Focus on nature

Although key decisions have been postponed, if anything the pandemic has fuelled the global conscience about the environmental crisis and revealed more clearly the importance of healthy ecosystems to our wellbeing.

Growing evidence linking the spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 to ecological disturbance, land-use change and global wildlife trade underlines the urgent need to rethink our relationship with nature.

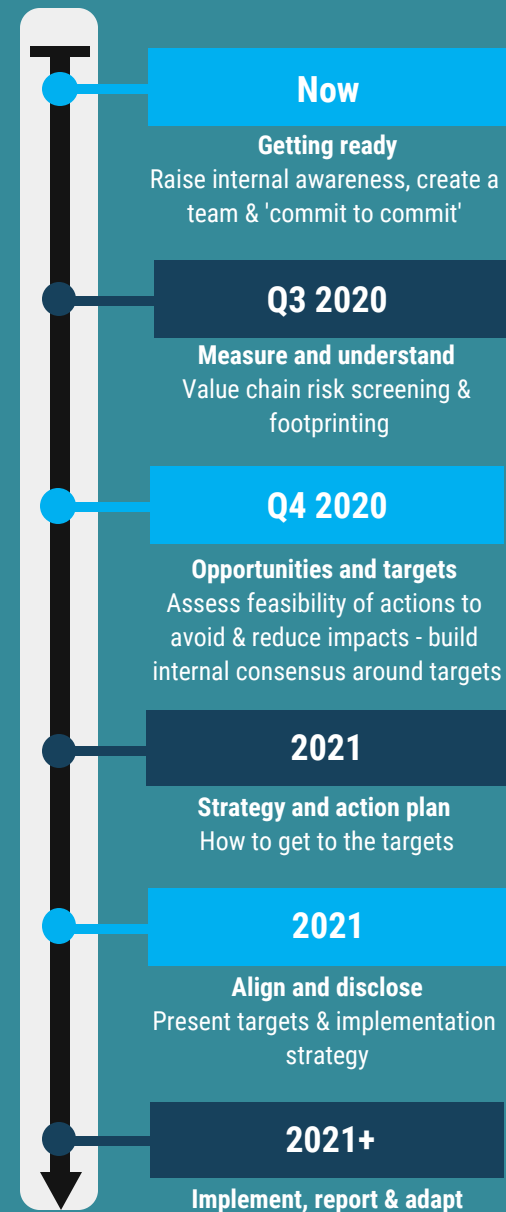
As we emerge from the crisis, there will be an expectation that economic stimulus packages facilitate growth of a green economy – one where economic growth is decoupled from climate and ecological impacts as much as possible.

Businesses will look to set their own targets to operate within society's sustainability targets and contribute to ambitious new goals for nature.

Many are aiming for an overall positive impact or contribution to nature, much as businesses aim for a positive impact on social well-being.

To do this, companies will want to be able to measure and report on impacts across their value chain – and align their activity with global processes and action.

A timeline for business: getting ready to align with global processes



How to get started

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The pause in economic development offers businesses and investors an opportunity to take stock and evaluate what resilience now looks like in a rapidly changing world. Those that are likely to succeed are the ones that recognise the changing expectations placed on them. Key for business sustainability and resilience is to establish overarching targets which allow companies to measure and demonstrate their contribution to national and global environmental goals.

To help get started, we provide initial steps that can be taken today to integrate nature into operations and develop a more resilient and future-proof model for doing business.

- **Screen the biodiversity risks associated with projects and investments and assess the value chain to identify biodiversity impacts related to material sourcing, as well as direct company operations.**
- **Develop simple and clear biodiversity targets that demonstrate a commitment to nature and align with new global standards for doing business and goals for sustainable development – one way is to [register your interest](#) in setting a Science Based Target for Nature.**
- **Transform targets into actions, including metrics and indicators to measure biodiversity impact, and seek opportunities to evaluate and adapt practices to stay on track.**
- **Start Biodiversity Action Planning! Guidance is now available on how to integrate [biodiversity management across value chains](#).**
- **Demonstrate ambition and showcase progress to a global audience at the next big biodiversity meetings, including the IUCN [World Conservation Congress](#) and the [Convention of Biological Diversity COP](#).**
- **Join businesses around the world and add your voice to [Business for Nature's Call to Action](#) and help engage and influence policymakers on the need to adopt ambitious policies on nature.**



Integrating nature into business decision-making



The Biodiversity Consultancy works together with sector leading clients to integrate nature into business decision-making, at project level and through the development of post-2020 corporate strategies, metrics, SBTs and more.

Contact us to find out how together we can:

- Support project and strategic action plans
- Build corporate policies for nature
- Prepare and pilot science-based targets for nature
- Analyse biodiversity footprints and assess value chain risks
- Deliver biodiversity impact mitigation options
- Discover opportunities to go 'Nature Positive'



THE
BIODIVERSITY
CONSULTANCY

+44 (0)1223 366238

enquiries@thebiodiversityconsultancy.com

www.thebiodiversityconsultancy.com

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