

February -March 2021

NEWSLETTER



Cover Story

Special Reports

IBBI Activities

IBBI MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

IBBI is helping its member companies to:

- Adopt a dedicated 'Biodiversity Policy'
- Take a 'No Net Loss Approach', especially those operating in mining, energy, transmission and manufacturing sectors
- Conduct 'Carbon Sequestration Studies' for plantation across value chains
- Promote Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for addressing climate change & biodiversity loss

Become an IBBI member and make your business nature positive & climate resilient. To know more, write to us at syamala.lingala@cii.in.



**CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development**



Confederation of Indian Industry

COVER STORY

SYNERGY BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

The climate change and biodiversity issues are fundamentally connected and a holistic approach is needed to address them effectively. As a first step, to tackle these issues it is important to identify the inter-connected factors.

Major reports released by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) highlight the critical role nature can play in limiting global warming below the 2°C threshold set by the Paris Agreement, and stress the need for urgent and coordinated global action to address both crises.

Businesses are one of the leading stakeholders in conserving biodiversity, and halting and reversing nature loss. In addition to managing risks to business operations from the negative impacts on biodiversity, many businesses are actively pursuing biodiversity conservation as a way to ensure long-term business sustainability. Measures for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, climate change mitigation, building resilience to future threats and sustainable development are being widely adopted by more and more businesses. Knowledge and understanding of area-based approaches will support in stronger decision making and accurate planning.

Some of the key areas for focused action to achieve the targets & goals of both nature and climate are:

Ecosystem Restoration & Conservation

Ecosystem degradation is one of the biggest environmental threats globally. There are various drivers like developmental pressures, population growth, agriculture intensification, over-exploitation, climate change etc. Ecosystems are natural buffers for pollution control, species habitat and carbon sinks. They help in mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss issues and provide multiple direct and indirect benefits to people & planet.

Deforestation Free Supply Chain

Forests are important for genetic diversity and are home to a variety of flora & fauna. They support in the provision of many ecosystem services & benefits and store upto 80% of total terrestrial carbon stocks. Drivers of deforestation and land-clearing include urbanisation, agriculture intensity, industrialisation and diversions due to various developmental activities. These lead to species extinction, depletion of freshwater, soil erosion, drought, land degradation and carbon emission.

Energy Efficiency & Low-Carbon Technology

Globally, Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have been rising since the beginning of industrial revolution. The major contributors of GHG emissions are industry, transport and energy production & consumption (electricity generation & use). Increased emissions contribute directly to climate change and this in-turn impacts nature & people. The rapid increase in global temperatures has been leading to frequent and unpredictable extreme weather events like heavy rainfall, floods, land slides & cyclones. These have impact in terms of biodiversity loss, economic and financial crises.

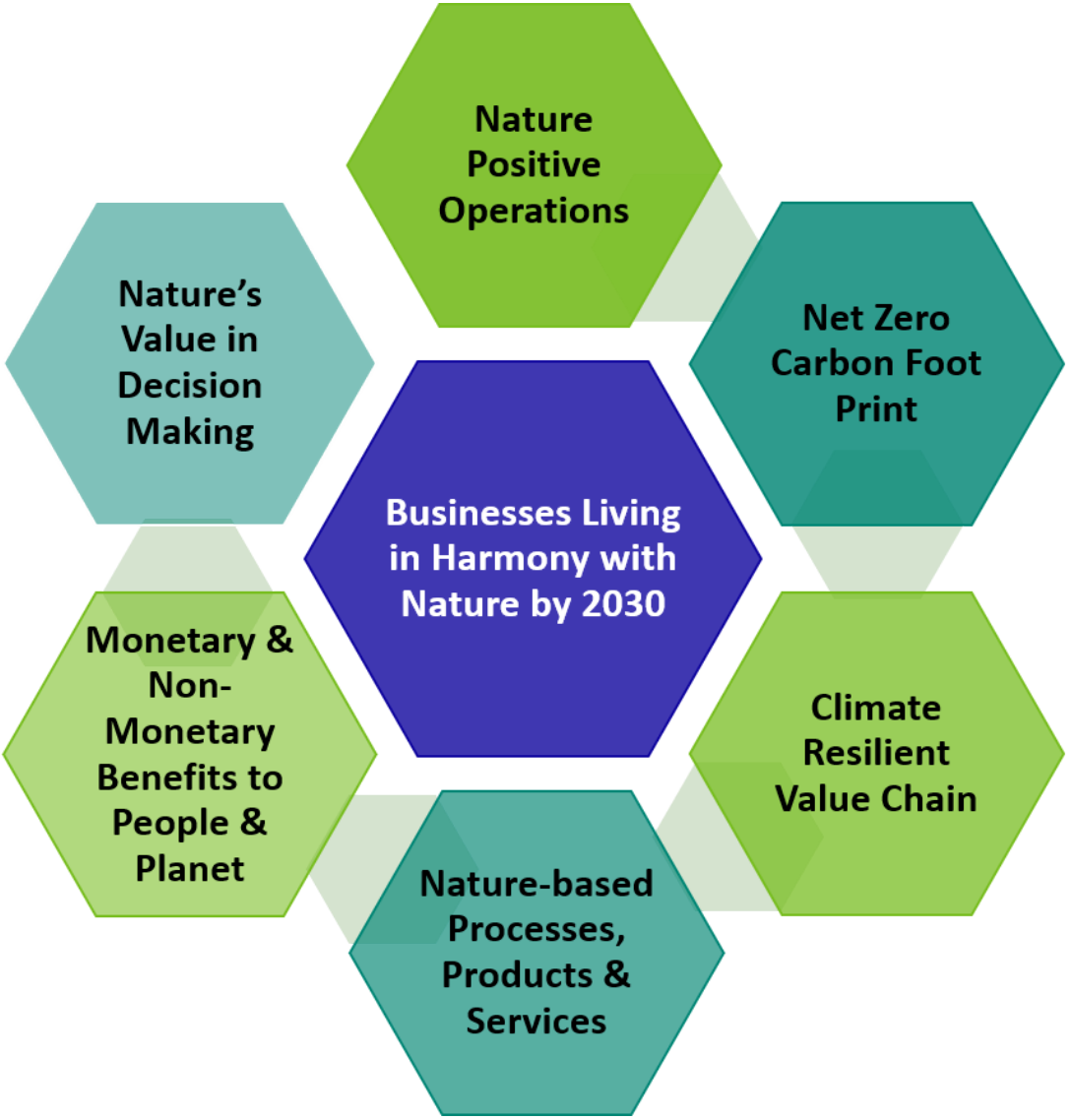
Nature-based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are engineered solutions involving conservation, restoration and management interventions that can be adopted at a decision making level, implemented into the management plan and scale-able from local to global level. NbS provide long-term, sustainable and resilient opportunities.

Sustainable & Smart Agriculture

Agriculture intensification and shifting cropping patterns over many years have contributed to biodiversity loss and climate change. Sustainable agricultural practices including promoting soil carbon sequestration, could contribute to climate mitigation while reducing impacts on biodiversity.

Action Plan for Reducing Footprint on Nature & Climate



SPECIAL REPORTS

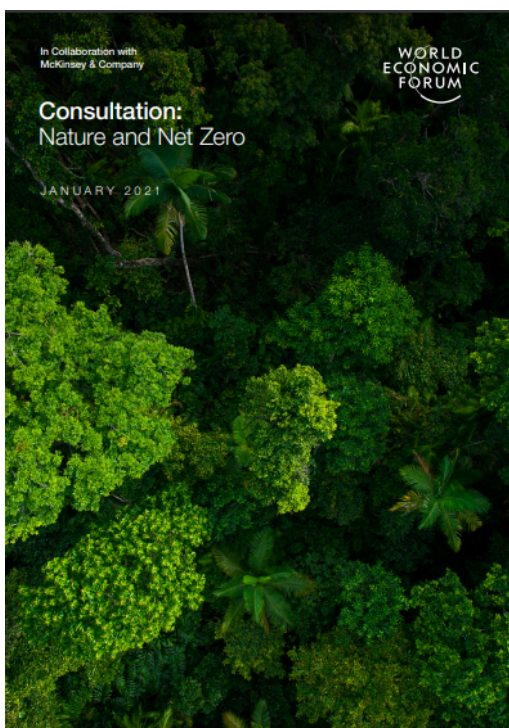
The Economics of Biodiversity-The Dasgupta Review

This report explains how to take collaborative actions and navigate a path towards the restoration of our planet's biodiversity. Economics is a discipline that shapes decisions of the utmost consequence, and so matters to us all. The Dasgupta Review puts biodiversity at its core and provides the compass that is needed urgently. In doing so, it shows how, by bringing economics and ecology together how the natural world can be saved, at what may be the last minute – and in doing so, save ourselves.



To read visit at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>

Nature & Net Zero



Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) offer an opportunity to address both climate and nature crises and generate significant additional environmental, social and economic benefits. NCS – investment in conservation and land management programmes that increase carbon storage and reduce carbon emissions – offer an important way of addressing both crises simultaneously. This report sheds light on the significant co-benefits of NCS to nature and humanity. Carbon market participants are increasingly recognising these broader benefits. Not least of these is the flow of private capital they can generate to countries that offer the highest potential for NCS projects, typically forest-rich countries in the Global South.

To read visit at http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Consultation_Nature_and_Net_Zero_2021.pdf

IBBI ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Implementation at Member Companies: Possibilities and Challenges

Biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate. The level of decline is unprecedented in human history, scientists note that earth is facing the sixth extinction event in the history of our planet, and it's being driven by socio-economic and developmental activities. Therefore, an immediate, transformational action to conserve biodiversity is needed.

Businesses are dependent on biodiversity for long-term sustainability. Biodiversity loss poses physical, reputational, regulatory and financial risks to businesses. To understand both the impacts businesses have on biodiversity and the ways in which business relies on it, it is important to identify the inter-linkages between business & biodiversity, map the associated risks and integrate biodiversity value into decision-making.

IBBI carried out an open discussion with its member companies to identify the most relevant bio-diversity practices for businesses, unrealistic expectations of sustainability, tools or methods that help in assessing performance towards biodiversity.

Key Discussion Points

- Many companies have been mainstreaming biodiversity through the Biodiversity Policy, conservation of indigenous species, restoration practices, afforestation practices and plantation drives.
- Most action plans adopted are aligned with biodiversity conservation, climate change, land degradation and water conservation.
- Some of the identified tools and methodologies used by member companies include biodiversity indexing, assigning biodiversity champions, implementation of standards and certification within the supply chain and mobile applications.
- Two major challenges of biodiversity implementation identified by business are (a) enabling biodiversity conservation and management in the supply chain; and (b) building biodiversity awareness within the organisation.

Challenges

- There is more focus on Climate Change and less traction on biodiversity
- Awareness on biodiversity inter-linkages in supply chain is low
- Lack of knowledge products for reference on biodiversity aspects
- No capacity on integration of climate aspects into programmes and activities taken up for biodiversity enhancement
- No awareness on the importance of quantifying local floral and faunal species
- Lack of mechanisms to identify critical biodiversity areas within operational sites
- No translation of positive impact created to specific interventions like mangrove conservation, wetland restoration and community engagement
- Absence of inclusion of the community and local authorities in decision-making and planning for biodiversity conservation

Possibilities

- Developing a company specific biodiversity policy and action plan
- Biodiversity screening practice for new projects and new operational sites
- Collaborations/partnerships with local authorities, research organisations, tribal communities for biodiversity programmes & initiatives
- Biodiversity Indexing to understand site specific biodiversity and gaps in stakeholder engagement and governance
- Incorporation of climate smart and resilient agriculture practices
- Developing greenbelts including native species, as per compliance standards for improving local biodiversity
- Plantation and carbon sequestration for biodiversity enhancement and carbon neutrality
- Land restoration and rehabilitation for restoring native biodiversity
- Wetland restoration and water conservation

We would like to hear from businesses on the challenges and possibilities of biodiversity implementation across value chain. Write to us at syamala.lingala@cii.in and tell us about your biodiversity story.

Embedding Nature into Business Models: Success Stories



The session was hosted by the Global Partnership for Business & Biodiversity (GPBB) as part of We Value Nature's 10-Day Challenge, events and activities for naturally-smarter businesses on 16 March 2021.



The session got together concrete examples from companies that embraced the challenge of re-imagining their business models exploring some of the challenges and highlighting positive results in their journey. The participating companies included:

- Vale in partnership with Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Initiative
- Nicofrutta/Nicoverde in partnership with Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica
- Oree in partnership with French Platform for Business & Biodiversity
- Biocare in partnership with India Business & Biodiversity Initiative



Key Takeaways

- Urgent action is needed. Despite the current trend where companies have been setting long term targets, things need to change and they need to change fast
- Ambition alone is not enough. Governments need to put in place effective regulation and incentive measures
- Collaboration is key. Everyone has a role to play in the much needed transformation and partnerships will be key to moving forward.

To listen to session recording please visit

https://wevaluenature.eu/Embedding_nature_into_business_models_success_stories