



STRENGTHENING EUROPE'S COMPETITIVENESS AND RESILIENCE

Enabling reporting and disclosure on nature
and better decision-making

POLICY BRIEF 01

Introduction

The purpose of reporting and disclosing on nature

The purpose of corporate reporting and disclosure on nature is to communicate business impacts and dependencies and related risks and opportunities. This provides markets the information they need to allocate capital in a way that supports the green transition. Corporate reporting and disclosure on nature enables better decision-making for business resilience and helps secure long-term European competitiveness.

This brief

This brief presents practical ways to:

- improve corporate assessment, reporting and disclosure on nature
- transition to business models that contribute to nature positive¹
- scale financing for nature positive.

It draws on recent reports from A-Track, a Horizon Europe Innovation Project that focuses on accelerating transition through the application of knowledge on natural capital.²

Who should read this brief?

- **European policy-makers** and regulators, in particular in the context of the Omnibus I Package, the Competitiveness Compass and the Multiannual Financial Framework (2025–2028).
- **Corporates and financial institutions** interested to improve assessment, reporting and disclosure on nature for better decision-making and business resilience.

1 **'Nature Positive'** refers to 'Halting and Reversing Nature Loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieving full recovery by 2050'

2 **Natural capital** is the world's stock of all natural assets, such as soils, waters, air, plants, and animals, and the benefits they provide to humans through services known as **ecosystem services**. These services, which include clean water, food, climate regulation, and pollination, are essential for human well-being and economic productivity. Natural capital differs from other forms of capital, like human or financial capital, by comprising the natural world and its ability to generate ongoing benefits for society over time.

Key messages

- 1** Proven frameworks and tools for natural capital accounting and environmental footprinting have great potential for supporting assessment, reporting and disclosure of corporate impacts and dependencies on nature and related risks and opportunities.
.....
- 2** Capacity-building is vital to increase uptake of assessment, reporting and disclosure of impacts and dependencies on nature and of related risks and opportunities.
.....
- 3** European competitiveness requires a rethink of business models, to align creation of financial value with better outcomes for nature.
.....
- 4** Scaling finance for a nature-positive economy can be done today using existing solutions that integrate nature into decision-making in mainstream finance.



1 Proven frameworks, standards and tools for natural capital accounting and environmental footprinting have great potential for supporting assessment, reporting and disclosure of corporate impacts and dependencies on nature and related risks and opportunities.

Relevant frameworks, standards and tools for natural capital accounting (NCA)³ include the [Natural Capital Protocol](#), the [UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting \(SEEA\) Central Framework](#) and [SEEA Ecosystem Accounting](#) and [Science Based Targets for Nature \(SBTN\)](#). NCA is integrated into the [Task Force of Nature-Related Financial Reporting's LEAP \(Locate-Evaluate-Assess-Prepare\)](#) approach. In the EU, a framework for environmental footprinting⁴ is provided by the [Product Environmental Footprint \(PEF\)](#) and [Organisation Environmental Footprint \(OEF\)](#). Many corporates already apply NCA and environmental footprinting. However, corporates struggle to access and process relevant data and information, and environmental footprint does not yet adequately address biodiversity and ecosystem services. Recent A-Track reports address these challenges.

3 Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is an accounting framework that provides a systematic way to measure and report on natural capital stocks and flows.

4 Environmental footprinting measures the impact of a product or organisation on the planet.

→ How A-Track helps

Easing access to and application of nature data and information for nature-related assessments

Integrating nature information into nature decision-making – an assessment of user needs identifies the nature information needs of businesses and financial institutions, and explains how natural capital accounting can help address barriers to data access and application.

Building narratives through nature data – Handbook for applying spatial datasets and metrics to assess locations and tailor nature strategies provides practical information on key spatial datasets and metrics for assessing the state of nature, risks and opportunities at locations and how they can be applied in operational and/or strategic decisions – with a focus initial screening and characterisation of locations.

Developing a novel Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) Footprint

A Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Footprint – the A-Track approach presents a novel approach which integrates biodiversity and ecosystem services into environmental footprinting of products and organisations and life cycle assessment (LCA) frameworks. It provides a framework for a new BES Footprint allowing for consistent calculations using existing methods and models, aligned with existing footprinting standards. It also outlines how businesses can integrate information from Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) into LCA to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services assessments.

Operationalising the BES Footprint: data and tools details data requirements and availability relating to species diversity at various spatial and temporal scales, and outlines a procedure for feedback from stakeholders, helping to ensure that the BES Footprint meets the need of companies and public authorities.



→ [Click document image to download resource](#)



→ [Click document image to download resource](#)



→ [Click document image to download resource](#)



2

Capacity-building is vital to increase uptake of assessment, reporting and disclosure of impacts and dependencies on nature and of related risks and opportunities.

Limited understanding and capacity present a key barrier to corporate assessment, reporting and disclosure on nature and appropriate consideration of nature in corporate decision-making and allocation of capital. Capacity-building is vital to increase uptake of assessment methods such as natural capital accounting and biodiversity and ecosystem services footprinting.

→ How A-Track helps

Delivering learning and capacity-building programmes

A-Track is rolling out action to build capacity for assessment through two dedicated capacity-building programmes, [Embed Nature](#) and [Onboard Nature](#).

Embed Nature offers a phased business learning and capacity building programme to support businesses in integrating nature in three key decision-making contexts: location-focused decision making; nature in product and service design; and nature on the balance sheet.

Onboard Nature is aimed at companies starting out on their 'nature journey' combining resources from related initiatives that can help bring cross-function teams up to speed.

Content development for these programmes is guided by the A-Track report, ***Mainstreaming nature in business decision-making: capabilities and needs survey***, which identifies how businesses integrate nature into strategic, financial and operational decisions, and where support is most needed.





3 European competitiveness requires a rethink of business models, to align creation of financial value with better outcomes for nature.

All too often, current business practices and models contribute to loss of nature. Assessment, reporting and disclosure of impacts and dependencies on nature and related risks and opportunities can foster changes in business practices and operations to reduce harmful impacts. However, for meaningful transition, there is a need to go further by adjusting business models to align with nature positive. Transition is in this sense an innovation and business leadership challenge.

→ How A-Track helps

Signposting transition to nature positive-aligned business models

Two A-Track reports explore business models that align with nature positive.

Better business: re-thinking business models for nature-positive outcomes, introduces business model ‘archetypes’ that are aligned with nature positive, providing inspiration to businesses seeking to transition their business models to nature positive and thereby improve business resilience.

Business model archetypes for nature positive outcomes (coming soon) provides further refinement and testing of the archetypes and analysis of how these may help scale finance that contributes to nature positive.

Together, these reports highlight some of the structural barriers to business model innovation and transformation. EU policy has an important role to play in creating an enabling environment for business to adopt nature-positive aligned business models. Future A-Track events will work with business to explore further the barriers to business model innovation and test solutions.



→ [Click document image to download resource](#)



4

Scaling finance for a nature-positive economy can be done today using existing solutions that integrate nature into decision-making in mainstream finance.

Corporate reporting and disclosure on nature provides information to investors with a view to directing financing towards sustainable activities. However, the vast majority of mainstream private commercial finance remains 'nature-negative', driving loss of nature. There is an urgent need to green finance to reduce harm to nature and support nature restoration.

→ How A-Track helps

Scaling finance that contributes to nature positive

Two A-Track reports address this challenge.

Scaling finance for nature: barrier breakdown provides an actionable definition of nature finance and identifies current barriers to scaling finance for nature.

Scaling finance for nature: a primer on what financial institutions are doing today (coming soon) shows that financial institutions can act for nature today – using their existing tools and processes. It identifies one prerequisite (assess financial portfolio relationship with nature) and four levers of change to scale finance for nature positive: (1) corporate stewardship; (2) financial decision-making; (3) opportunities to incentivise change; (4) engagement with policy-makers’ – each illustrated with real-world examples from banks, investors and insurers.



→ Click document image to download resource



→ Further resources...

- See more info at: a-track.info/policy
- [Download A-Track publications here](#)

A-Track is a four-year, €11 million project that will accelerate action for nature by business, financial institutions and government.

A-Track brings together leading thought leaders and practitioners who have been driving change in the measurement and valuation of natural capital and biodiversity in business, finance and government.

Partners have led the development or implementation of guidelines and standards for measurement of nature impacts and dependencies for improved decision-making, including: biodiversity footprinting, natural capital assessment and accounting, and business models and finance that contribute to nature positive outcomes.

Find out more at: **a-track.info**

Project partners:



Project funded by:



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the grant agreement number 101082268.



**UK Research
and Innovation**

This work was funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [101082268].

Project funded by



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**