

The goal of the **Disclosure Frameworks Tracker** is to inform stakeholders on the extent by which mandatory and voluntary corporate disclosure frameworks recommend using the key principles behind quality biodiversity footprint assessments¹, as per the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol)². The BD Protocol is the accounting framework that helps organizations identify, measure, record, consolidate and report on the periodic and accumulated changes in the state of biodiversity, through double-entry bookkeeping. The goal is to enhance the completeness, accuracy and comparability of biodiversity impact information, for internal reporting and external disclosure.

Biodiversity accounting is defined as

the systematic process of identifying, measuring, recording, summarising and reporting the biophysical state of biodiversity assets and the periodic and accumulated net changes to those assets.

and it follows organisational accounting rules:

A	Asset/ impact inventory	An asset inventory or register of affected ecosystems and material species, organised in line with relevant international (e.g. IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology) and national classification systems (e.g., EUNIS Habitat Classification in Europe, South African ecosystem types, Terrestrial Ecological Systems of the United States)
B	Biodiversity impact measurement	Measurement techniques that use spatially explicit data, suitable to each asset category
C	Consolidated ecosystem impact data	The assessment of net impacts for gains and losses of like-for-like assets (ecological equivalency principle) in line with the mitigation hierarchy
D	Accounting records	Use of recording rules based on double-entry bookkeeping (DEBK) from financial accounting, with a full audit trail
E	Statements of Position and Performance	Compilation of asset-specific Statements of Position and Performance, which can be aggregated for ecosystems but need to be kept separate for material species, using spatially explicit time-bound data. Biodiversity state data needs to be segregated per value chain boundary, as well as per type of impact (direct, indirect, future)
F	Target setting	Setting ground-based, verifiable, accumulated and periodic targets for each asset category. Recognition of accumulated impacts on biodiversity to avoid greenwashing. Setting targets linked to accounting records but enabling comparisons across companies, regions, sectors etc

The design and implementation of biodiversity footprint assessments should follow these accounting rules. Voluntary corporate disclosure frameworks should recommend their use so that businesses meaningfully contribute to Target 15 of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Footprint.

Target 15 of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework calls for taking

“ legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios



Convention on
Biological Diversity

The Disclosure Frameworks Tracker (June 2023)

Which frameworks are integrating biodiversity accounting rules?

		 SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK <small>GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE</small>	 Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures	 Global Reporting Initiative	 ESRS E4 Biodiversity and ecosystems
A	Asset/ impact inventory (ecosystem and material species)	No	Material impacts only No complete register	Material impacts only No complete register	Material impacts only No complete register
B	Biodiversity impact measurement (ecological equivalency)	No	No	No	Metrics for ecosystems and species No ecological equivalency
C	Consolidated ecosystem impact data (surface area equivalents)	No	Yes (partial)	Recommended	Yes (partial)
D	Accounting records	No	No	Recommended	No
E	Statements of Position and Performance	No	No	Recommended	No
F	Target setting (accumulated and periodic targets)	Partial No Conversion of Natural Ecosystems + Land Footprint Reduction	No	No	Partial (periodic targets)

The scope of this tracker (June 2023) covers:

GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity – Exposure draft

https://www.globalreporting.org/media/04ciwmg/gri-topic-standard-project-for-biodiversity_exposure-draft.pdf

Science Based Targets for Land - Version 1 (draft for public consultation)

<https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SBTN-Land-Guidance-Draft-for-Public-Consultation.pdf>

V0.4 of the Taskforce for Nature-related financial Disclosures (TNFD) beta framework

https://framework.tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/23-23882-TNFD_v0.4_Integrated_Framework_v7.pdf

2022 [Draft] ESRS E4 Biodiversity and ecosystems

<https://www.efrag.org/lab6>

Footnotes:

- Houdet, J & Teren, G. 2022. Quality Biodiversity Footprint Assessments in Practice: Why Organisational Biodiversity Accounting Matters. A Position Paper of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP). National Biodiversity and Business Network, Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa. <https://407264.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/BDP-Quality-Biodiversity-Footprints.pdf>
- Endangered Wildlife Trust (2020). The Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol) (2020). National Biodiversity and Business Network - South Africa, 123p. https://407264.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/bdp_final_080321.pdf

The Disclosure Frameworks Tracker is an output of the Biodiversity Disclosure Project managed by the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Reference:

Houdet, J., Teren, G., June 2023. Corporate Disclosure Frameworks Tracker. Biodiversity Disclosure Project, Endangered Wildlife Trust.