



A NETWORK ON NATURE IN TRANSITION PLANNING

A CONCEPT BRIEF TO ENABLE AND SCALE IMPLEMENTATION

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Informal working group

This concept brief was developed in collaboration with an informal working group (IWG) convened by WWF & CDP in 2026. WWF and CDP thank the IWG participants for their valuable perspectives throughout the process. Members included Business for Nature, the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the International Transition Plan Network, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the World Benchmarking Alliance, the World Economic Forum, MS&AD Insurance Group, Natura, Rabobank, and Vattenfall. The Government of the Netherlands and the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs joined as observers, and BSR provided technical support.

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1. INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONCEPT BRIEF

Nature is the bedrock of our economic system. More than \$58 trillion of global GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature, yet we are steadily eroding nature’s capacity to support us.¹ Nature-related risks, including biodiversity loss, climate breakdown and ecosystem collapse, are threats to financial stability, value chains and long-term business resilience.

The next four years will be decisive for halting and reversing nature loss and delivering against the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The good news is that businesses, financial institutions, sub-national and national governments can still help turn the tide.

To address climate-related risks and impacts, transition planning has emerged as a promising lever for delivering climate-resilient and low-carbon business models. By embedding nature in existing transition planning practices, companies and financial institutions can respond and contribute to the transition implied by the GBF and Paris Agreement.

THE NEED TO EMBED NATURE INTO TRANSITION PLANNING	
Climate mitigation	There is no net-zero without nature.
Climate adaptation	Nature helps protect against the impacts of climate change.
Nature resilience	Ensure ecological systems can withstand hazardous events, trends or disturbances, maintaining their essential characteristics and functions.
Business resilience	Manage nature-related risks and opportunities while securing the natural assets on which economies depend.

This concept brief proposes the establishment of a new network on nature in transition planning to enable and scale implementation. It builds on WWF and CDP’s earlier work on [enabling and scaling nature in transition planning](#), and on recommendations from an [informal working group](#) convened in 2026.

¹ PwC (2023), [Managing nature risks: From understanding to action](#)

2. THE CASE FOR A NETWORK

WHY THIS NETWORK, AND WHY NOW

As highlighted in the [TNFD's 2026 annual status report](#), momentum for organisations to act on nature-related issues¹ is rising. Central banks and financial supervisors are starting to recognise the relevance of nature-related risks, and the micro-prudential relevance of transition plans that embed nature.² Since the publication of TNFD's guidance on nature in transition plans, there has been a steady increase of examples, supplementary guidance, tools, and frameworks. However, while many have initiated nature-related assessments, translating

this information into action through transition plans at scale is lagging. Adoption remains limited and experience varies between sectors and geographies. The result is a gap between ambition and the ability to develop and implement credible plans. The proposed network closes this gap by making the field more coherent, practical, and implementation-ready. The proposal responds to a shared market need for practical implementation support, peer learning, and stronger alignment across the rapidly evolving transition-planning landscape.

80%+

of businesses and financial institutions in TNFD's survey (intend to) embed nature in transition plans.

47%+

of climate transition plans disclosed through CDP integrate at least one environmental issue beyond climate.

2%+

of the world's 2,000 most influential companies have already published early iterations of transition plans for nature.

Source: [TNFD](#) (2026), [CDP](#) (2026) [World Benchmarking Alliance](#) (2026)

² This concept brief uses nature-related issues to refer to nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities.

² NGFS (2026) [Note on the supervision of nature-related financial risks](#)



HOW TRANSITION PLANNING CONNECTS WITH KEY EXISTING NATURE FRAMEWORKS, STANDARDS, AND COMMON METRICS

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

Provides guidance on assessing nature-related issues to be addressed in plans and provides foundational dedicated guidance on nature in transition planning and disclosure.

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN)

Offers a methodology for setting science-based targets that can help shape objectives and ambitions of transition plans.

Disclosure Standards and Requirements

May require organisations to disclose plans for sustainability related issues (e.g. ESRS & IFRS S1), including nature when material. Jurisdictions may also develop new nature-related disclosure requirements, drawing on the International Sustainability Standards Board's new Nature Practice Statement.

The Nature Positive Initiative

Published a universal set of indicators and metrics for measuring the state of nature, which can help design and monitor progress on transition plans. The metrics are available to be embedded in widely used standards and frameworks and are now integrated into the TNFD and SBTN frameworks.

3. THE CASE FOR COLLABORATION

FROM AMBITION TO ADOPTION AT SCALE

A strong foundation already exists. The next challenge is to connect and align existing approaches, test them in practice, and turn emerging experience into credible implementation at scale.

What organisations are navigating

- A rich but complex landscape of guidance, tools, and frameworks.
- Limited practical examples across sectors and geographies.
- Capacity and evidence gaps that make it harder to set credible targets, adapt business models, and implement action.
- Policy, finance, standards, and market expectations that are not always aligned.

What a shared platform can unlock

- Practical planning support and peer learning grounded in real-world experience.
- Greater coherence across existing approaches rather than another parallel framework.
- Stronger links between organisational plans, sector approaches, and wider transition-planning efforts.
- A feedback loop that uses implementation evidence to improve policy, standards, finance, and market expectations.

The intended impact

To accelerate credible, economy-wide transition planning that integrates nature, helping companies manage nature-related risks and opportunities, strengthen resilience and competitiveness, and contribute to a net-zero, nature-positive, climate-resilient economy.

No single organisation can solve the implementation challenge alone. The network will connect organisations developing transition plans with the initiatives shaping guidance, finance, standards, and policy. By connecting and amplifying ongoing efforts rather than duplicating them, it will create a feedback loop between implementation experience and the wider enabling environment.





HOW TRANSITION PLANS CONNECT TO THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (GBF)

Integrating nature in transition planning can help translate the objectives of the GBF into real-economy decisions. It is especially relevant to:

- Target 14 by anchoring biodiversity mainstreaming in long-term business and finance plans;
- Target 15 by offering reportable information on how organisations plan to address dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities;
- Target 18 by providing information from the market that can inform incentive reform, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, and Biodiversity Finance Plans; and
- Target 19 by giving financial institutions clearer information to finance the transition through clients' and investees' transition plans.

Plans should ultimately support delivery of all goals and targets of the GBF, including its whole-of-society approach, and human rights-based approach. Organisational transition plans may also inform, or be guided by, the development of nature positive pathways and landscape approaches, and mutually reinforce each other in the implementation of the GBF.³

³ See more information on the link between nature positive pathways, landscape approaches and transition plans in our report on [Enabling and Scaling Nature in Transition Planning](#) (chapter 2.1).

4. THE NETWORK MODEL

BUILD THE EVIDENCE. ENABLE PLANNING. SHAPE ENABLING CONDITIONS.

Three mutually reinforcing focus areas turn collaboration into practical implementation tools that propel system-level change.

THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	PRIORITY ACTIVITIES
1. Build the evidence Generate and share the knowledge, data, and practical insights needed to build confidence and demonstrate value.	• Track adoption, barriers, enablers, and business value. • Map alignment across frameworks, standards, investor expectations, and policy objectives. • Build a shared evidence base through implementation lessons, case studies, and practical examples.
2. Enable implementation Help organisations respond to and contribute to the transition implied by the GBF through practical, sector-relevant support.	• Address priority guidance and implementation gaps.⁴ • Develop and test sector-specific pilots, use cases, and tailored tools. • Co-develop solutions to barriers identified through evidence building and strengthen capacity for implementation.
3. Shape enabling conditions Connect implementation experience to policy, standards, finance, and market expectations so organisations receive clearer signals for action and investment.	• Support greater coherence across policy and regulatory expectations. • Generate evidence-based recommendations grounded in implementation experience. • Convene policymakers, regulators, standard setters, and market actors to strengthen interoperability and consistency.

⁴ Including, but not limited to, sector-specific guidance, guidance on integrating nature-, climate-, social- and equity-related issues, including on just transition and engagements with Indigenous Peoples, local communities and affected stakeholders, guidance on transition finance and guidance on anchoring plans against nature positive pathways and in landscape approaches.

5. GOVERNANCE & PARTICIPATION

INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION, CLEAR ACCOUNTABILITY

The proposed model separates strategic oversight, technical delivery, and day-to-day management while creating multiple pathways for companies, financial institutions, policymakers, standard setters, civil society, and technical experts to participate.

Executive committee	Sets strategic direction, approves priorities and workplans, oversees performance, and supports long-term sustainability.
Core members	Inform priorities, elect Executive Committee representatives, contribute expertise and implementation experience, and lead or participate in workstreams.
Workstream leads & workstreams	Guide technical delivery, make technical decisions, and produce focused outputs and implementation resources. Such workstreams may be co-hosted with other initiatives.
Secretariat	Manages administration and operations, supports delivery, coordinates communications and financial management. May lead or co-lead workstreams.

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE	
Core Membership For organisations committed to sustained engagement and shaping the network. Core Members participate actively in at least one workstream, contribute expertise and implementation experience, and may lead activities. Indicative scale: 20–30 organisations initially, growing to 50–100 over time; 10–30 active participants per workstream.	Network Community & External Partners A broader community can engage through events, webinars, publications, and knowledge sharing. Strategic external partners – including governments, scientific organisations, educational institutions, commercial partners, and other initiatives – may collaborate on specific activities. The community aspires to achieve cross-sectoral and crossregional participation.

Potential participant groups include companies, financial institutions, transition-planning and nature initiatives, industry associations, policymakers and regulators, technical and scientific experts, civil society, national and sector pathway actors, capacity-building partners, and funders.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

LAUNCH, LEARN, REFINE, AND SCALE

The roadmap moves from network formation and workstream design to implementation, refinement and long-term delivery, with activities expanding as member priorities, evidence and resources develop.

PHASE 0 Month 1-3	PHASE 1 Month 4-6	PHASE 2 Month 6-12	PHASE 3 Month 12+
Establish the network Build governance, participation, funding, and operating foundations.	Finalise & launch workstreams Define, resource, govern, and formally activate the initial workstreams.	Implement, refine & report Deliver activities, track progress, share findings, and adapt the approach.	Consolidate & scale Prioritise what works, deepen delivery, and expand the network and partnerships.

LAUNCH PRIORITIES	
Establish the network	Recruit and confirm participants, secure launch funding, confirm the secretariat, finalise governance, approve a two-year workplan.
Activate workstreams	Confirm scope, deliverables, milestones, key performance indicators (KPIs) and contributors; establish workstream governance; launch communications and engagement.
Deliver and refine	Advance workstreams, monitor participation and implementation, share early findings, adapt priorities and secure subsequent-year commitments.
Consolidate and scale	Review first-year results, prioritise high-impact work, establish longer-term plans and expand successful activities, sectors, geographies and partnerships where resources allow.

The network is intended to use a modular approach: each workstream starts with focused activities reflecting member priorities, available capacity, and secured resources, then expands as demand and delivery capacity grow.

7. WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

A STRONGER ECOSYSTEM FOR CREDIBLE ACTION

The network is designed to build capacity and confidence, strengthen market alignment, and accelerate coherent, credible transition plans that embed nature in strategy, risk management, investment, and operational decisions.

CAPACITY & CONFIDENCE	COHERENCE & RECOGNITION	ADOPTION & ALIGNMENT
Companies have greater capacity and confidence to embed nature in transition planning, supported by practical, navigable resources and real-world examples.	Transition planning becomes a recognised mechanism for setting credible targets, adapting strategy, managing risk, directing investment, and implementing operational change.	Companies and financial institutions adopt coherent, credible approaches that integrate nature and climate; implementation evidence informs policy, standards, and market expectations.

ILLUSTRATIVE OUTCOMES BY END OF YEAR 1	
Implementation evidence • Publish market insight reports on adoption, emerging practice, implementation barriers, and the business value of nature in transition planning. • Develop and test sector-specific implementation pilots in at least three priority sectors, generating practical use cases and lessons for wider adoption, including in at least one emerging economy. • Build a case-study base with at least 10 new examples and resources used or referenced by organisations developing or implementing transition plans.	Enabling conditions • Convene multistakeholder dialogues with policy-makers, regulators, and standard setters. • Develop recommendations that strengthen interoperability and consistency between policy expectations, standards, and market practice. • Track uptake, user feedback, and practical use of network resources to inform refinement and scaling.

Invitation to engage

The network is intended for organisations ready to contribute experience, expertise, and leadership to a shared scaling agenda. Prospective members and partners can help shape priorities, co-develop and test solutions, contribute evidence, and connect implementation learning to wider market and policy efforts.

NEXT STEPS

WWF & CDP intend to continue developing this network concept and seeking feedback, subject to the availability of funding. Next steps include confirming participants, securing launch funding and refining the initial workstream priorities. WWF and CDP are also seeking a partner organisation to operate as the secretariat. Interested organisations are invited to express their interest in line with the Terms of Reference.



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