



ACHIEVING
TARGET 15

 BUSINESS
FOR NATURE

Achieving Target 15: How the Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) will assist with successful implementation

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This information brief was prepared by Business for Nature, in collaboration with the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) and The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) negotiators.

Business for Nature strongly supports **Target 15 in the Global Biodiversity Framework** focusing on the role of business. The current Target 15 must be strengthened to provide a crucial signal to businesses to transform their business models towards a nature-positive economy.

Read our full position on Target 15 that recommends to:

1. Adopt mandatory requirements for business to assess & disclose impacts and dependencies;
2. Reduce negative impacts by 50% across operations and value chains;
3. Clarify that target 15 addresses mainstreaming by businesses.

This paper presents **two key ongoing initiatives** that will assist Parties and businesses to assess and measure impacts and dependencies on nature, set and implement targets to reduce negative impacts and disclose financially-related risks. These initiatives will provide methodologies, tools and frameworks, making regulatory measures requiring assessment and disclosure by businesses feasible by 2030.

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) is equipping companies with the guidance, tools and methods to set science-based targets for nature. SBTN's guidance includes helping companies understand their nature-related risks and the impacts and dependencies they have on nature. The Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), in turn, is working to create a framework for companies and financial institutions to manage and disclose those nature-related risks. By ensuring there is alignment in the way those nature-related risks are understood, framed and addressed, TNFD and SBTN can facilitate a company or Financial Institutions' journey towards incorporating nature into their decision-making processes in an impactful way.

About the Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN)

Who is SBTN?

The **Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN)** is a network of experts from more than 50 NGOs, business associations and consultancies who will collectively define what is necessary to do “enough” to stay within Earth’s limits and meet society’s needs.

It therefore:

- Builds on, and complements, the progress of establishing science-based targets for climate;
- Provides guidance for companies and is developing an indicator framework to enable companies to set science-based targets for nature and track their progress, including towards the CBD goals and targets;
- Works to embed the adoption of science-based targets within capital markets.

How will SBTN assist businesses in assessing their impacts & dependencies on nature and reducing their negative impacts? (therefore supporting Target 15)

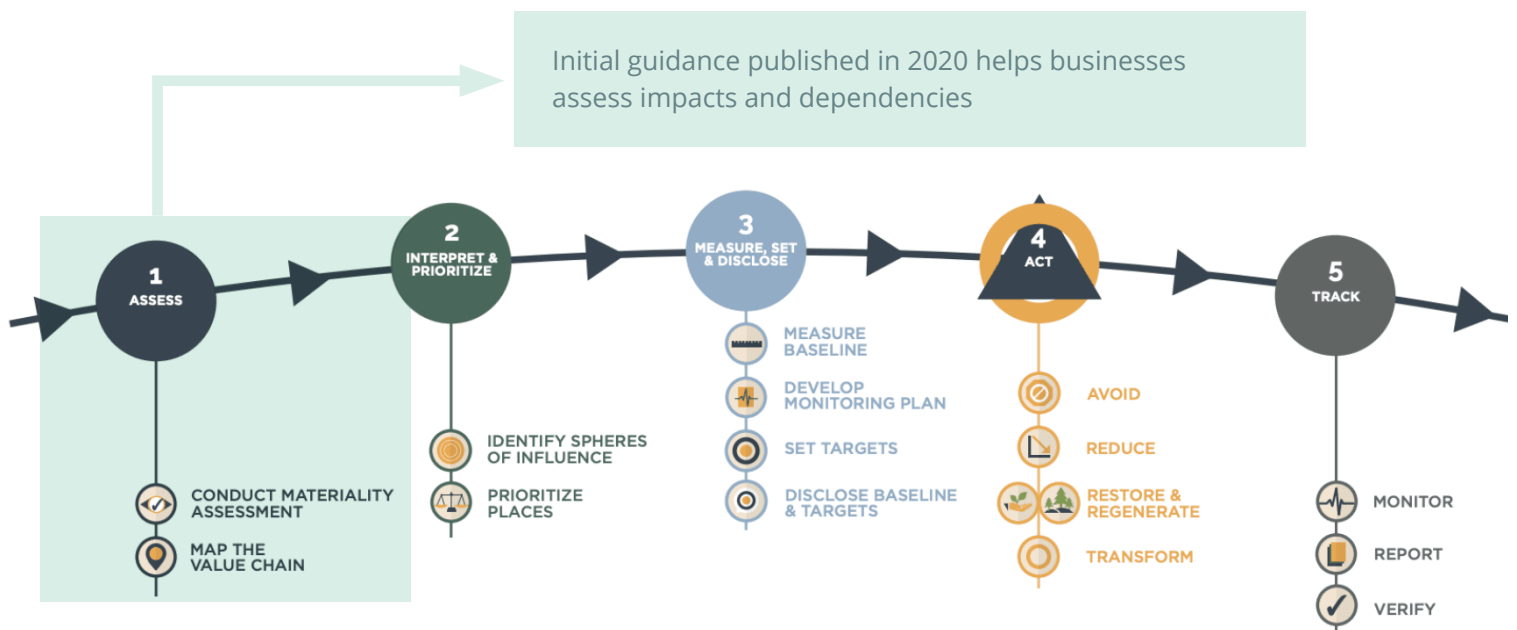
SBTN aims to provide methods for companies to set science-based targets for nature including (1) Biodiversity, (2) Land, (3) Oceans and (4) Freshwater.

The objective is to create a transformation of business models by addressing the drivers and pressures of nature loss, offering a pathway for sufficiently ambitious corporate action. The objective is to see widespread adoption by business by 2025.

SBTN’s framework consists of a five-step process (see figure below) for companies to set science-based targets for nature, including guidelines on how to assess and measure impacts and dependencies, setting baselines and targets, developing monitoring plans and disclosing outcomes. The actions companies take will be based on a hierarchical mitigation approach: avoid, reduce, restore and regenerate and transform.

What guidance is currently available?

In September 2020, SBTN published their **Initial Guidance for Business**. This includes detailed guidance to assist companies in assessing their impacts and dependencies on nature by conducting a materiality assessment, mapping throughout their value chain and prioritizing the locations and economic activities where they have the greatest negative impact, and the greatest urgency to act. Assessing impacts and dependencies has been defined by SBTN as a ‘no-regrets’ action.



As part of this initial guidance, SBTN has identified interim targets that companies can already set, in line with the best available science and SBTN's upcoming methods. Setting interim targets will ensure companies are on the right path and count towards science-based targets for nature when available. These targets are also part of the 'no-regrets' actions that business can take now.

What are the next steps? When will the targets become available?

Mid-2022, based on feedback from companies and practitioners testing the Initial Guidance, SBTN will release additional guidance for Step 1 (Assess) and Step 2 (Interpret & Prioritize) and initial freshwater methods for public consultation.

Step 3 - SBTN's target-setting methods - are expected to be available at the end of 2022/early 2023, following a peer review process, beginning with freshwater and land. These will continue to be enhanced and developed over time as both the science and methodologies develop.

This means that in 2023, businesses will have the guidelines necessary to fully assess their impacts and dependencies on nature and to set science-based targets on nature. This includes biodiversity, freshwater, land and oceans; aiming to avoid and reduce all direct and indirect negative impacts at operation level and through value chains, therefore assisting the implementation of Target 15.

Companies can also set climate science-based targets under SBTi.

How can governments support this initiative?

Public institutions are critical to solving the dual crises of climate change and nature loss. Governments can best support SBTN by adopting an ambitious Target 15 based on Business for Nature's recommendations and incorporating the proposed headline indicators. This would give a clear signal to business and generate early action.



About the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

Who is TNFD?

The [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TNFD) consists of various groups, which together make up the [TNFD Alliance](#). At the center sits the Taskforce, a group of 35 senior executives from financial institutions, corporates and market service providers, which is led by the [TNFD Co-Chairs](#) (Elizabeth Mrema and David Craig). The Taskforce is supported by the [TNFD Forum](#), a consultative grouping of over 250 institutional supporters. It is funded through the support of the UK, Australian, Swiss and Dutch Government, the UNDP, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Children's Investment Foundation Fund (CIFF).

TNFD was established to develop and deliver an integrated risk management and disclosure framework for organizations to disclose and act on evolving nature-related risks, which aims to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes.

How will TNFD assist business in disclosing their impacts & dependencies on nature? (therefore supporting Target 15)

TNFD is not creating a new disclosure standard. Rather, it aims to establish and promote the adoption of an integrated risk management and disclosure framework that aggregates the best standards, data and tools for business and finance sector to use.

TNFD will build upon the structure and foundation of the Taskforce on Climate-related Disclosures (TCFD), harnessing synergies in framework design and stakeholder engagement to avoid repetition and maximize the prospects of accelerated market adoption.

Once adopted, the Framework will equip business and financial institutions with the tools needed to disclose their impact and dependencies, therefore assisting with the implementation of Target 15.

What guidance is currently available?

TNFD released [a beta version of its framework](#) on 15 March 2022. It will proactively invite organizations across public and private sector for consultation and testing.

This first beta version of the TNFD framework comprises three components:

1. Foundational guidance, including key science-based concepts and definitions, to help a wide range of market participants understand nature, and nature-related risks and opportunities;
2. Disclosure recommendations aligned with the approach and language of the climate related guidance developed by The Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD); and
3. Practical guidance on nature-related risk and opportunity analysis for companies and financial institutions to consider incorporating into their enterprise risk and portfolio management processes.

What are the next steps? When will the Framework be available?

The TNFD will deliver its full framework in 2023, enabling organizations to disclose and act on evolving nature-related risks.

TNFD follows an open innovation approach as it will take feedback onboard and issue further iterations of its framework before then.

How can governments support this initiative?

TNFD expects that aligning with the recommendations of the TNFD will initially be market-led. However, through Target 15, regulators must commit to adopting mandatory requirements for business to comply with the TNFD framework by 2030, similarly to how regulators from the G7 are now mobilizing TCFD recommendations.

Many national governments, central banks, regulators and public sector organizations support TNFD by being a member of the TNFD Forum.