



EU Community of Practice Finance and Biodiversity

Mission statement¹

Financial institutions (FIs) increasingly recognise biodiversity and natural capital as an important issue. They also acknowledge that that better integration of biodiversity into financial activities and decision-making should be encouraged. This can lead to new and more sustainable business opportunities and enhanced risk management for investments, thereby increasing FIs' resiliency as a whole.

A workshop in Brussels on 13 September 2016 discussed the common challenges and opportunities faced by FIs in integrating biodiversity considerations into financial decisions, and the benefits of sharing experience in this field. Participants in the workshop agreed to take forward these discussions by forming an EU Community of Practice for Finance and Biodiversity (EU CoP F@B).

This EU CoP F@B will work at EU level and will be hosted by the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform. Its ultimate goal will be to support the EU strategic priorities related to biodiversity protection and the transition towards a sustainable financial sector.

It will serve as a forum of dialogue between FIs to share experiences, raise awareness and promote best practices at EU level on how to integrate biodiversity and natural capital into mainstream financial activities and foster investments in natural capital as a new asset class.

The CoP will comprise members of FIs (and other relevant stakeholders) in the EU with interest and experience in finance and biodiversity, who will meet regularly in order to exchange knowledge and experience with mutual trust and openness.

The work is expected to cover among others initially the following areas:

- i) the development and mainstreaming of tools and methodologies to measure impacts of investment portfolios on biodiversity;
- ii) approaches to integrate biodiversity and natural capital within portfolio and risk management;
- iii) data access and availability;
- iv) the promotion of an enabling regulatory environment capable of; a) fostering biodiversity investments; and b) supporting the integration of biodiversity and natural capital into mainstream financial decisions .

The exact focus of these and further areas will be defined by the members of the EU CoP F@B. The EU CoP F@B will seek to address gaps, build partnerships and foster synergies with existing initiatives (e.g. Natural Capital Coalition, Natural Capital Declaration, Dutch FiNC). It will also leverage on existing work carried out by the Business@Biodiversity Platform (e.g. natural capital accounting and green infrastructure) and foster clearer connection with related EU policies capable of advancing the agenda in favour of identified areas, such as wider environment policy, investments for growth and jobs, green finance and Horizon 2020.



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