

# SECTORAL NATURE-POSITIVE TRANSITION PATHWAYS

A government-led process for a sustainable and resilient economy

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This document has been created jointly by Business for Nature, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, the Green Finance Institute, The Nature Conservancy and WWF to use as a discussion paper with governments globally.



## THE RATIONALE

The global economy is heavily exposed to compounding nature and climate risks that threaten sustainable development and economic growth and resilience. A World Bank report estimates that the collapse of just some of the ecosystem services provided by nature could result in a decline in global GDP of US\$2.7 trillion annually by 2030. This would hit low-income and lower-middle-income countries the hardest, with the GDP drop in 2030 potentially exceeding 10%.<sup>1</sup>

The business community consistently ranks climate and nature risks among the highest risks they face.<sup>2</sup> Already, the operations of businesses globally are being disrupted by floods, droughts, pollution, soil erosion and biodiversity loss, with the food and energy sectors among those at greatest risk.<sup>3,4</sup> The resulting economic and social consequences are significant.

Nearly 200 governments have signed up to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which

aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, and are producing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) setting out how they will deliver on these goals. Achieving the nature targets set out in these NBSAPs as well as other national targets represents a significant opportunity to enhance economic resilience, productivity and competitiveness.

Meeting these national targets will require coordinated action across all sectors of the economy. A whole-economy shift toward nature-positive outcomes is needed, moving businesses away from nature-damaging activities and toward nature-positive production patterns, business models and technologies. While some businesses are beginning to invest in nature-related opportunities to build resilience and reduce their impacts, what this nature-positive transition looks like remains unclear for many. They need clearer guidance and better coordination to give them the confidence to invest at scale.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2021) The Economic Case for Nature. ([link](#))

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum (2025) Global Risks Report 2025. ([link](#))

<sup>3</sup> Allianz (2025) Allianz Risk Barometer. ([link](#))

<sup>4</sup> WWF-UK and Green Finance Institute (2025) Business Investment in Nature. ([link](#))



**Governments face growing pressure to deliver on biodiversity targets while unlocking investment and economic opportunity. Sectoral Nature-Positive Transition Pathways (NPPs) offer a practical, government-led solution to guide sectoral transitions and mobilise finance – starting with high-impact sectors. This is why Business for Nature, Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, the Green Finance Institute, The Nature Conservancy and WWF are jointly calling on governments to co-design NPPs with businesses, academia and civil society to provide guidance to key sectors on how to make the transition.**

NPPs can support governments to meet the commitments they made under the Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 14, and CBD COP Decision 16/13, in which they agreed to mainstream biodiversity within and across sectors.

Progress toward these commitments is already underway on multiple fronts. For example, 20 countries have joined the [Biodiversity Mainstreaming Champions Group](#), sharing examples of sectoral strategies aligned with the GBF; initiatives like BIODEV2030, coordinated by IUCN and WWF, are supporting nature-integrated development planning; and frameworks such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) are enabling businesses to assess and disclose nature-related risks. These efforts demonstrate that governments and businesses globally are making progress with embedding nature in their strategies and decision-making. NPPs build on and complement these efforts by helping governments to align sectoral plans and actions with national targets.



## WHAT IS A NATURE-POSITIVE PATHWAY?

A Sectoral Nature-Positive Transition Pathway (NPP) is a sectoral plan that provides guidance to businesses and government on how to align a specific economic sector (such as agriculture, energy, finance, construction, technology) with an NBSAP or other national environmental targets.<sup>5</sup> Ideally, governments should lead an inclusive multistakeholder process with businesses, academia and civil society to co-design and subsequently deliver an equitable, practical and cost-effective transition pathway for that specific sector. NPPs enable milestones to be set and progress to be monitored against them. This will facilitate adjustments or remedial action where progress is falling behind.

An NPP is based on an assessment of the sector's nature-related impacts and identifies the actions needed to address these impacts, and to contribute to and align with the government's nature targets. It could also consider nature-related dependencies. Overall, the assessment should consider the maturity, feasibility, costs and benefits of available solutions and technologies and identify clear steps for businesses to address their impacts on nature and support system changes. It is both grounded in science and practical for businesses.

By developing a shared vision of the way forward, an NPP will provide governments with a foundation to put in place the enabling policies, regulations and incentives that will support and accelerate the transition of specific sectors toward a nature-positive economy. It will also serve as a reference document for businesses and actors in those sectors and guide them to develop their own transition plans or nature strategies.

**NPPs do more than guide sectoral transitions; they are opportunities to demonstrate leadership, build cross-ministerial alignment, and respond to growing needs from the private sector and civil society in the transition to a nature-positive economy.** By fostering institutional coordination, supporting data system development and building long-term capacity, NPPs offer practical value, especially in countries where biodiversity planning frameworks are still evolving or under-implemented.

Some countries have already produced sectoral transition pathways towards *net zero* goals, and they are also available at the global level.<sup>6</sup> Notable examples include the UK Climate Change Committee's Path to Net Zero,<sup>7</sup> Chile's Long-Term Climate Strategy,<sup>8</sup> Australia's

<sup>5</sup> For further clarity on how economic sectors are defined here and their role in the transition to a nature-positive economy see the guidance developed by Business for Nature, the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development on sector actions toward a nature-positive future. ([link](#))

<sup>6</sup> International Energy Agency (2021) Net Zero by 2050 ([link](#)); IPCC (2018) Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report ([link](#))

<sup>7</sup> UK Climate Change Committee (2020) The Sixth Carbon Budget ([link](#))

<sup>8</sup> Chile's Long-Term Climate Strategy (2021) ([link](#))



Sector Pathways Review,<sup>9</sup> Indonesia's Comprehensive Investment and Policy Plan 2023 covering the power sector,<sup>10</sup> and France's National Low-Carbon Strategy (Stratégie Nationale Bas-Carbone).<sup>11</sup> The net-zero transition pathways have provided clarity on the transition required and the expectations placed on business. Importantly they provide a benchmark against which governments and companies can measure progress. NPPs can replicate this model. Ideally, in countries where net-zero sectoral transition pathways have been developed, these should be integrated with NPPs to facilitate a coherent approach, given the enormous synergies between action to tackle climate and nature-related risks. The IPBES and IPCC joint report on biodiversity and climate change outlines options for addressing the two issues in tandem.<sup>12</sup> Initial elements of integrated action to address climate change and nature loss can be found in the UK Climate Change Committee's Seventh Carbon Budget, which analyses land-based mitigation actions, identifies co-benefits for climate and nature, and discusses approaches for decreasing carbon emissions without harming nature.<sup>13</sup>

In many biodiversity-rich countries, the maturity and capacity of the private sector to engage with nature-positive actions vary greatly across industries. NPPs can serve as a roadmap to signal clear expectations and

incentives, while helping build the enabling conditions for private investment.

**NPPs are particularly valuable in contexts where governments have the capacity to implement structured, sector-specific guidance to align economic activity with biodiversity goals.** Their effectiveness depends on enabling conditions such as private sector participation, and readiness to implement supportive policies. In some contexts, NPPs may not be an immediately viable approach, and alternative strategies may be better suited to advance nature-positive transitions.

**An enabling policy framework and regulation are critical to mobilising the transition to a nature-positive economy.** While NPPs can help governments to mobilise the private sector, they will still need to be backed up by policy to incentivise the transition pathways agreed. Effective policies such as fiscal incentives, regulatory reforms and investment frameworks are essential to steer private sector behaviour and unlock investment. This discussion paper explains how NPPs can help governments engage the whole of the economy in the transition to a nature-positive economy, and secure private sector buy-in and support for the policy changes required to support that transition.

<sup>9</sup> Climate Change Authority (2024) Sector Pathways Review ([link](#))

<sup>10</sup> JETP Indonesia (2023) Comprehensive Investment and Policy Plan 2023 ([link](#))

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Ecological Transition (2020) Stratégie nationale bas-carbone ([link](#))

<sup>12</sup> IPBES and IPCC (2021) Biodiversity and Climate Change ([link](#))

<sup>13</sup> UK Climate Change Committee (2025) The Seventh Carbon Budget ([link](#))



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# BENEFITS OF NPPs

## FOR GOVERNMENTS

By mapping the desired trajectory of key sectors' transition over time, NPPs will help governments gain clarity on the level of action needed in each sector to meet national nature targets. NPPs will:

- 1 Support efforts to close the US\$942 billion per year nature finance gap.**<sup>14</sup> By identifying sector-specific actions and enabling policies, NPPs can help align financial flows with national targets and support the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies that currently undermine nature-positive actions and outcomes. NPPs can be a strategic lever for mobilizing private finance at scale and unlocking significant investment in new opportunities.
- 2 Guide governments to develop a comprehensive enabling policy, regulatory and incentives framework.** As NPPs provide clarity on the type of actions needed to transition a sector, this assessment will help governments to identify:
  - Barriers and opportunities that each sector is facing in its transition.
  - Areas for targeted policies and incentives reforms to accelerate action.
  - Opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration within governments and policy coherence to deliver climate and nature targets as they provide a whole economy perspective.
- 3 Secure and bolster the future growth trajectory of national economies.** As part of the transition to a nature-positive economy, NPPs help build resilience, improve productivity and develop a competitive advantage in the technologies, materials and financial products that are needed to reduce business impacts on nature. Yet, despite the clear business appetite for nature-related investment, countries do not have the mechanisms to coordinate and scale these investments at the landscape and sector level which is required to meet GBF targets. NPPs can help governments address this gap.

<sup>14</sup> BloombergNEF. (2024). Biodiversity Finance Factbook. ([link](#))



## FOR BUSINESSES

Government-led national NPPs, co-designed with business, academia and civil society, will provide the necessary clarity and confidence to business to guide, accelerate actions and align their activities with the transition objectives of their sector. NPPs can:

- 1 Provide clarity and policy coherence:** Government-led sectoral plans signal the commitment of governments to deliver the nature-positive transition. They can help establish a more coherent policy framework to guide business action.
- 2 Clarify long-term investment opportunities and unlock private finance:** Consistency and long-term clarity are prerequisites to the allocation of capital by investors. NPPs can provide this long-term vision of how the economy will transform and what that will look like in different sectors, giving confidence to investors and businesses. Clear trajectories and interim milestones encourage businesses to invest in research and development of new technologies, services and processes, as they can better anticipate the solutions that will be needed for the transition and that are likely to be incentivised by policy. NPPs can therefore help mobilise private finance at scale and unlock investment in new technologies and growth industries.
- 3 Manage transition risks:** The absence of clear sectoral transition plans, like NPPs, presents a significant transition risk for businesses, as they lack a clear understanding of what is expected of their sector to align with national nature targets. NPPs can provide an improved understanding of policy direction that enables businesses to better anticipate and manage future policy changes and associated risks.
- 4 Address physical risks:** Nature-related risks – such as water scarcity, pollution, flooding, soil degradation, and resource depletion – are already disrupting economic sectors worldwide by increasing operational costs, causing supply chain disruptions, threatening asset viability, and undermining regional economic resilience. NPPs help businesses integrate nature into their decision-making and improve their resilience by providing the clarity needed to develop effective risk management plans and to make long-term investments in new markets and technologies.

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**5 Support science-based target-setting, disclosure and reporting:** NPPs will facilitate businesses' nature- and climate-related disclosures, providing essential resources, sectoral context and data needed for robust reporting under existing frameworks. Specifically, they outline the expected transition of a sector, which businesses need develop and manage their own transition plans. NPPs will also enable businesses to disclose transition risks as outlined in reporting frameworks, including those of the TNFD, EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).

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**6 Align nature and climate objectives:** In most countries, regulation and policy on nature and climate are being developed in parallel, and there is limited integration between the two agendas. While climate transition pathways are not a prerequisite for the development of NPPs, in countries where climate transition pathways have been developed, their recommendations can be integrated into NPPs. This will provide a coherent framework for businesses to navigate the twin crises of climate change and nature loss.

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**7 Keep the nature momentum going:** The adoption of the GBF, along with positive policy signals and governments' support for nature-related assessment and disclosure frameworks, has already generated action and built capacity within businesses to manage nature-related risks and opportunities. However, further targeted policy development is needed to sustain and scale business action. Biodiversity mainstreaming – integrating biodiversity and its services into all policies and practices that depend on and affect it – within and across sectors was identified as a strategic priority at CBD COP16, and NPPs are an effective way to implement this decision.



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# CALL TO ACTION

Ahead of CBD COP16, 55 NGOs issued a joint [Call to Action](#) calling on governments to reform and implement sectoral policies and plans to facilitate a just transition for nature, climate and people.

Several governments have made initial steps to mobilise the private sector and some have started to develop sectoral pathways. In 2023, the French government convened businesses across multiple sectors<sup>15</sup> (including agri-food, energy, textiles, cosmetics, materials and building/construction) as part of the [Roquelaure Entreprises et Biodiversité](#) programme to identify priority actions for each sector. In the UK, the government is supporting the development of NPPs for key sectors of the economy – covering agrifood, built environment and water utilities – to support alignment with the targets of its upcoming Environmental Improvement Plan.<sup>16</sup>

As some countries are developing approaches to incorporate nature considerations into sectoral development plans, we propose to facilitate a process of learning from experience in different countries to support progress globally.

**We stand ready to work with governments in the development of NPPs.** This paper is intended to spark dialogue with ministries of environment, planning, finance and production on how NPPs can be tailored to national contexts and priorities.

**We are calling on governments to join this effort, to learn from the experience of others and share their own, and to commit to exploring the development of NPPs in their own country.**

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**Disclaimer:** This discussion paper will serve as a foundation for further engagement with governments and businesses globally and it does not necessarily reflect the official position of the co-signed organisations.



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<sup>15</sup> Ministère de la transition écologique (2024) Roquelaure entreprises & biodiversité » : 250 entreprises mobilisées ([link](#))

<sup>16</sup> GFI (2025) Nature-Positive Transition Pathways for the UK ([link](#))