

NATURE POSITIVE INITIATIVE



STATE OF NATURE INDICATORS AND METRICS

OCTOBER 2026



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“No business, financial institution, community or government is immune to the implications of nature loss. The dependencies and impacts on nature and the risks and opportunities associated with this loss must be on the agenda of every CEO, every politician, every land/sea manager and steward, and every citizen and consumer.”

Foreword

Nature is the bedrock of our economies, our society, and our health and wellbeing. It provides the food we eat, safeguards the water we drink and use in our industries and is key in mitigating the worst impacts of climate change. Yet, it is being destroyed at unprecedented rates. No business, financial institution, community or government is immune to the implications of the loss of nature. The dependencies and impacts on nature and the risks and opportunities associated with this loss must be on the agenda of every CEO, every politician, every land/sea manager and steward, and every citizen and consumer.

Science has never been clearer on the accelerating loss of ecosystems, species and services and the negative consequences for humanity and all life on the planet. This new awareness coupled with ever more effective and diverse techniques to monitor the state of nature offers the opportunity to act at scale in halting and reversing nature loss. However, this raises a critical question: can we align on a clear, standardised and practical way to measure nature that will accelerate meaningful action?

Over the past two years, a consensus-building process has been underway, engaging hundreds of experts and private-sector practitioners worldwide to build consensus on a common, practical and credible way to measure the state of nature. The result is four key biotic indicators: ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition, species extinction risk and species populations. Supported by metrics descriptors and methodological guidance, these four indicators provide a shared, accessible framework. By embedding these indicators and metrics consistently across relevant frameworks and standards, we can help drive the urgent action needed to halt and reverse nature loss, securing a resilient future through a nature-positive economy and ultimately, a world in which nature and people can thrive.

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Nature Positive Initiative

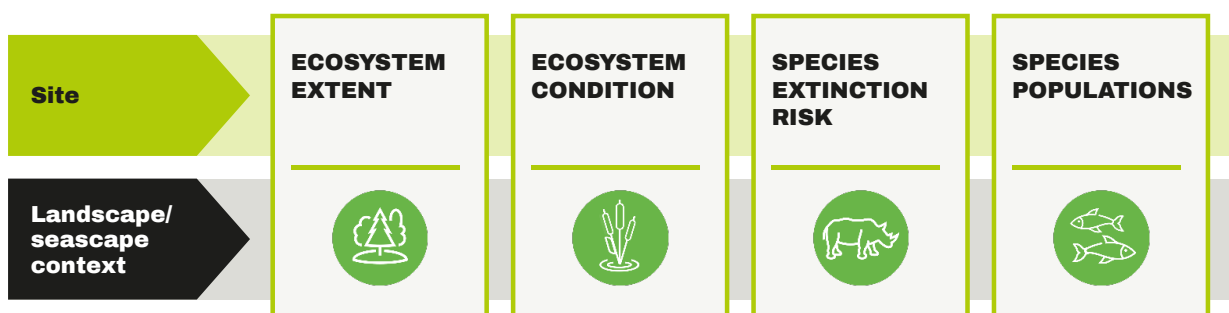


Overview

The Nature Positive Initiative, a coalition of some of the world's largest sustainable business and finance coalitions; standards, disclosure and target-setting frameworks; global conservation organisations; and science, subnational governance and Indigenous knowledge networks, came together to drive alignment around use of the term 'nature positive' and support broader, longer-term efforts to deliver nature-positive outcomes. In 2024, it launched a global consensus-building project to align on a minimum set of universal state of nature indicators and metrics for measuring nature-positive outcomes. An agreed approach to measuring changes in the state of nature was identified as a major gap in driving action at scale and achieving genuine nature-positive outcomes. The aligned metrics needed to be both robust and practical and were designed to be embedded consistently across existing frameworks and standards for widespread adoption.

The final outputs are the result of two years of extensive consultation to build global consensus amongst leading technical organisations, experts and users, with the practicality gained through insights from piloting and feasibility testing from companies across all main sectors in over 50 different sites around the globe. In today's world, users are seeking streamlining, alignment and simplification; the State of Nature Indicators and Metrics delivers this by cutting the over 600 available state of nature metrics down to just four core indicators with associated metrics to be applied for sites and landscape/seascapes. The outputs are being integrated into common frameworks and standards for use.

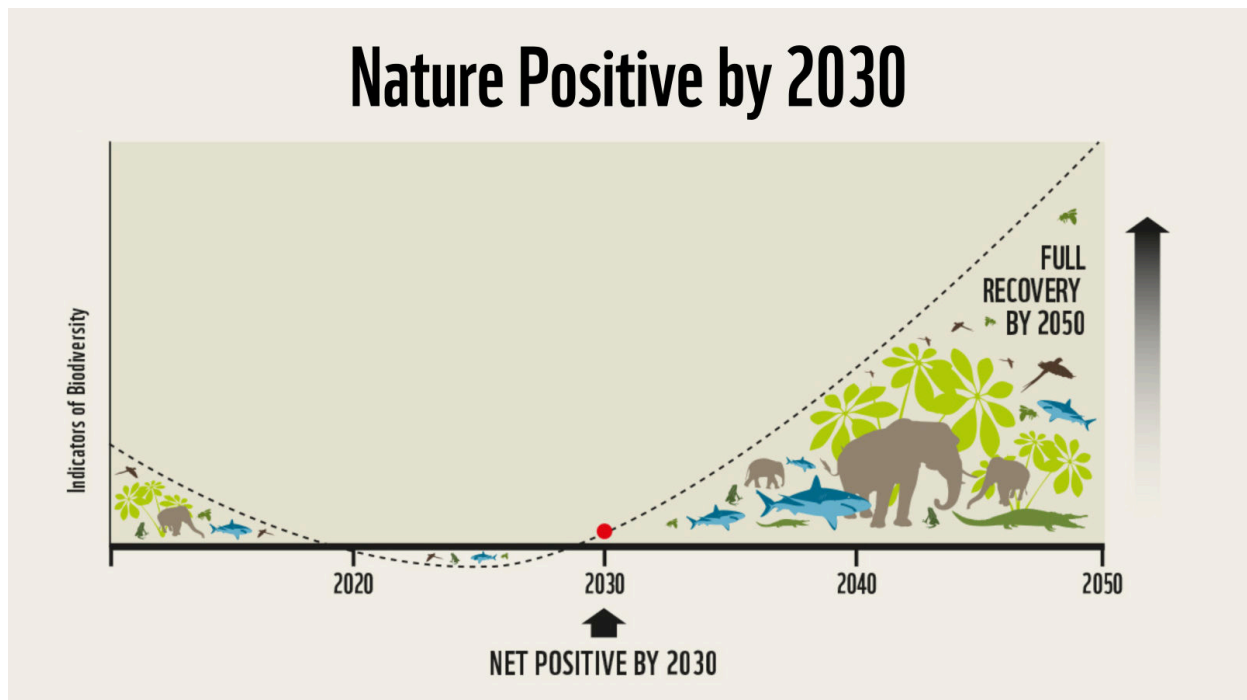
A consistent set of practical metrics can minimise the confusion, save time, increase comparability and instil confidence in the users, leading to meaningful and demonstrable nature-positive outcomes. The framework is designed to help address dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities, increasing resilience for business and society by improving the state of nature we all depend on.



Introduction: What is Nature Positive?

Nature Positive is a global societal goal to halt and reverse nature loss

Nature Positive is defined as “halting and reversing nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline and achieving full recovery by 2050”. Put simply, it means ensuring there is more nature in the world in 2030 than there was in 2020, with continued recovery after that. Read more in [The Definition of Nature Positive](#).



The dual climate and nature crises have massive implications for businesses, economies, governments and individuals, and nature loss is increasingly acknowledged as a critical risk and cost to the economy and society. Since 2020, the annual World Economic Forum Global Risks Reports have consistently placed biodiversity and ecosystem collapse and extreme weather events among the top risks to global stability in the next decade. Nature Positive is about taking urgent action to address this; it is about bending the curve of loss and recovering nature and the vital services it provides.

The Nature Positive goal has seen uptake across geographies and stakeholder groups, and momentum behind its adoption and implementation continues to grow. Like any effective goal, the global goal for nature must be ambitious, achievable, widely adopted and measurable. It is its measurability that this report aims to address.



Uptake across geographies and stakeholder groups

DECEMBER 2022

196

196 Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) including its mission for the period to 2030 to “take action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss”, consistent with the definition of the Nature Positive Global Goal

OCTOBER 2025

154 + 649

154 national governments (99% of voters) and 649 civil society organisations (96% of voters), supported an IUCN resolution to define “a robust Nature Positive for Business framework, to mobilise corporate, civil society and government support for high-integrity nature-positive contributions”

JULY 2026

2,700

Over 2,700 people attended the second Global Nature Positive Summit in Kumamoto, Japan, more than two-thirds of whom were from the private sector

OCTOBER 2026

1,000+

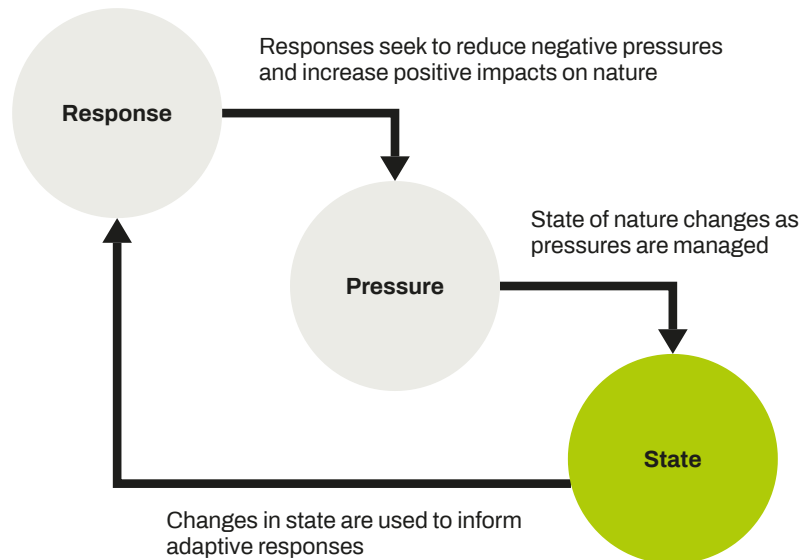
The State of Nature Indicators and Metrics were integrated into guidance updates for the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures and the Science Based Targets Network frameworks, which were collectively in use by over 1,000 companies, financial institutions and other organisations at the time of launch



Why do we need to measure the state of nature?

State is the outcome measure in the widely used Pressure-State-Response framework. In this context, it is telling us whether biodiversity is actually improving as a result of our actions.

Whilst pressure and response metrics are relatively mature across many use cases, state of nature metrics have been a long-standing gap across relevant standards.



Over 600 metrics exist for measuring the state of nature and there has been very little alignment on which to use to complement the existing pressure and response measures.

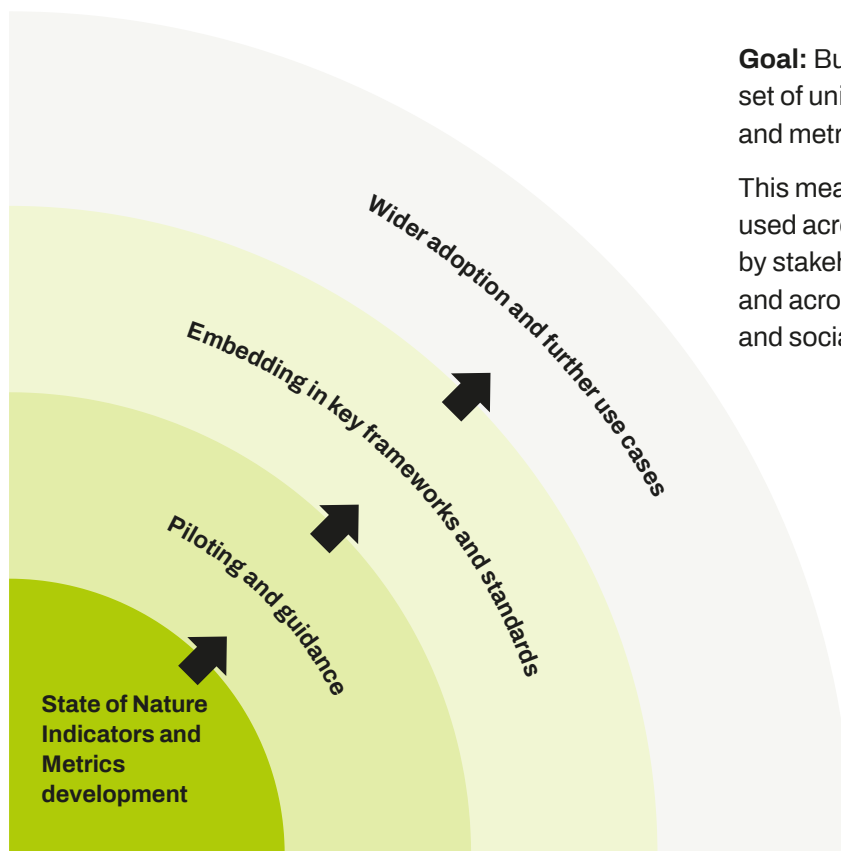
Building consensus on a universal set of state of nature indicators and metrics helps to:

- ✓ develop credibility and support for a core minimum set of metrics that are both scientifically robust and practical for widespread use by businesses and other actors, to accelerate action;
- ✓ establish a more consistent understanding of the state of nature and how to measure it, thus informing robust assessments of nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities and the monitoring of progress towards local, national or global goals;
- ✓ ensure that strategies and actions targeted at pressures and responses are contributing to nature's recovery and resulting benefits;
- ✓ provide clarity and confidence on measurement needed to ignite collaborative action for nature at the scale and speed needed; and
- ✓ create accountability through the credible measurement of nature outcomes, and establish a basis for credible assessment, accurate reporting/disclosure and legitimate recognition of contributions.

The Nature Positive Initiative launched a project in July 2024 to build consensus on a universal State of Nature Indicators and Metrics, designed to be embedded alongside existing pressure and response metrics.

State of Nature Indicators and Metrics project goal

The project goal was developed by the Nature Positive Initiative with input from stakeholder interviews, online workshops, focus groups, public consultations and events. The aim was not to create new metrics or reporting frameworks, but rather to identify the best of what was already available in order to fill the gaps relating to state of nature outcome metrics in existing frameworks and standards. To achieve wide adoption, the goal needed to be broad – covering all sectors, geographies, stakeholder groups and capacity levels. Focus use cases were identified where feedback highlighted the need was greatest.



Goal: Build consensus on a minimum set of universal state of nature indicators and metrics for mass adoption.

This means ensuring that they can be used across a variety of use cases, by stakeholders of varying capacity, and across different environmental and social contexts.

Metric design criteria

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Credible and science-based | ✓ Aligned |
| ✓ Responsive | ✓ Accessible and affordable |
| ✓ Flexible | ✓ Auditable |



Focus use cases

Voluntary disclosure (e.g. TNFD, GRI)	Strategy, target setting & tracking (e.g. SBTN, corporate strategies)	Corporates and financial institutions were identified as primary focus users, however the metrics were designed to be appropriate for use by a wide variety of stakeholders
Compliance (e.g. CSRD or EUDR)	Aligning financial flows (e.g. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and financial institutions)	

Technical scope

IN SCOPE	OUT OF SCOPE
☒ State of nature indicators and metrics	☒ Pressure or response indicators and metrics
☒ Biotic metrics	☒ Abiotic metrics
☒ Species and ecosystem metrics	☒ Genetic diversity metrics
☒ Universal approach	☒ Nature's contributions to people metrics
☒ Overview measurement guidance	☒ Sector, geography, use case-specific metrics or guidance
☒ Areas where natural and semi-natural ecosystems are present	☒ Extensive measurement guidance
	☒ Highly anthropogenic environments



Consensus-building process

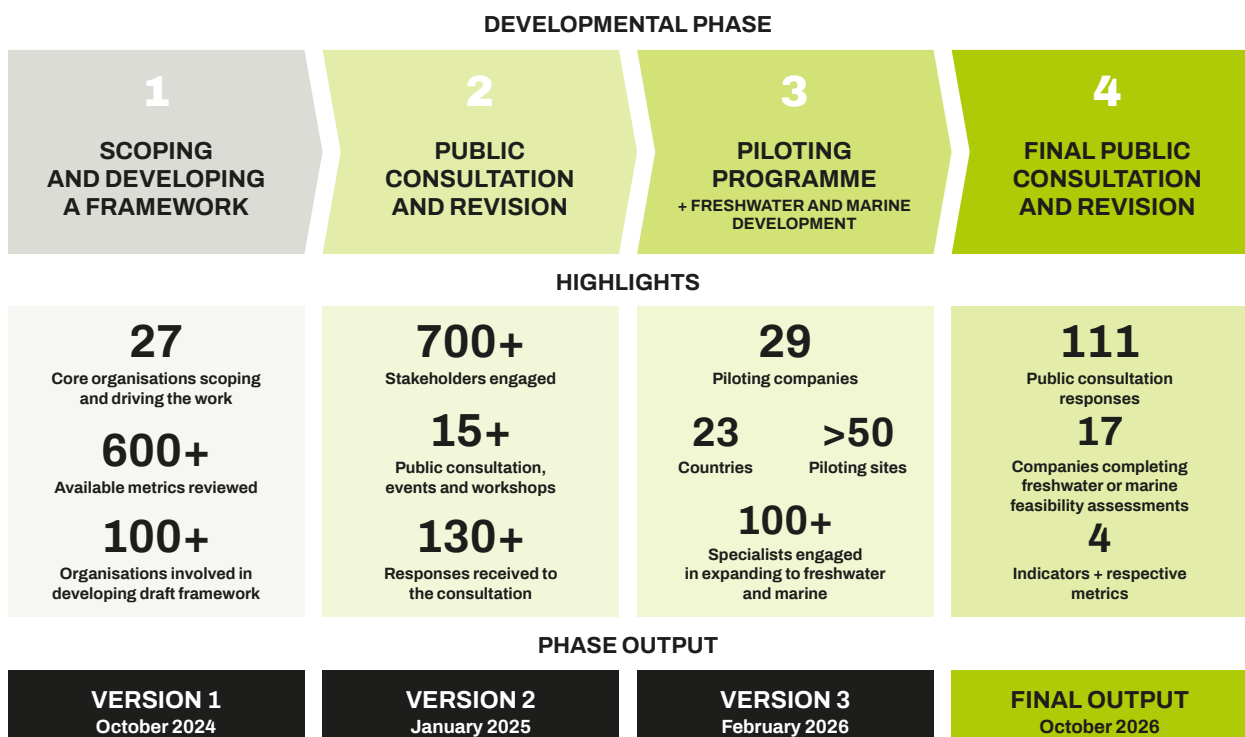
The multi-phase process was designed to be as wide and inclusive as possible, to ensure that the outputs were robust and practical for widespread adoption.

In July 2024, the Nature Positive Initiative embarked on Phase 1 of its consensus-building journey. Over 600 available state of nature metrics were reviewed against the metric design criteria and stakeholder interviews and workshops were conducted to develop a cohesive minimum set of indicators and metrics. In October 2024, this first iteration was launched for public consultation (Phase 2) at major global nature events including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP16, the first Global Nature Positive Summit in Sydney and the IUCN Leaders Forum, to raise maximum awareness of the consultation. Feedback centred around core themes – including improving clarity, practicality and indicator coverage – and was incorporated to create version 2 of the framework in January 2025.

Phase 3 had a strong focus on practicality and included a piloting programme with companies from a range of sectors and geographies testing the metrics and draft measurement guidance. Concurrently, experts were engaged in an analysis of the unique features of freshwater and marine ecosystems to develop additional guidance for these realms.

In Phase 4, further feasibility testing was conducted with companies to enhance the freshwater and marine guidance, and a second public consultation was launched to confirm consensus that the draft final outputs met the original design criteria.

The final public consultation had a 50:50 split in the respondents between focus users (industry, financial sector, professional services), and other users or expert reviewers (academia, civil society, government). It informed additional changes to the final metrics and further improvements to the Initial Measurement Guidance.



Elements of the State of Nature Indicators and Metrics

The elements of the framework were refined over the consensus-building process to produce a clear and effective structure

Each indicator has an accompanying metric(s), and each metric has three options of granularity level at which it can be applied. The granularity levels are distinguished by the level of measurement detail outlined by their associated measurement specifications. The granularity level approach helps to balance the flexibility needed for different ecosystems, levels of data availability, use cases and user capacity with the clarity and comparability that the metrics and indicators are aiming to provide. It encourages actors to begin their nature-positive journey. The indicators and metrics are designed to be stable over time, giving users confidence in adopting them, whereas the guidance (including granularity levels and measurement specifications) is intended to be iterated. This will enable the guidance to capture newly available datasets and measurement approaches to improve metric practicality and robustness as the underpinning science and technology continues to evolve.

Elements of the State of Nature Indicators and Metrics

1	Indicators	Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides simple and reliable means to measure the state of nature, including positive upwards or downwards trends.	Example Ecosystem Extent	Indicators and Metrics: designed for longevity Guidance: intended to be iterated over time
2	Metrics	A system or standard of measurement that is quantifiable and is used to track, compare, and assess indicator performance. Note that the framework provides a metric descriptor along with key characteristics such as spatial resolution and measurement specifications. In the guidance, a small number of named metrics/datasets that match the descriptor and measurement criteria are included as illustrative examples only, more are available.	Area, losses, and gains in extent of natural ecosystems (including semi-natural) by type (ha, %)	
3	Granularity level	Options for different levels of detail at which metrics should be measured. The appropriateness of a particular granularity level may vary with user capacity, data availability and/or use case.	Preparatory, medium, high	
4	Measurement specifications	Criteria guiding the calculation of robust and comparable metrics. The specification components vary by metric and may cover classification levels, spatial resolutions, data layer criteria or estimation methods.	Classification level of ecosystem type, e.g. Global Ecosystem Typology Level 3	

State of Nature Indicators

Four core indicators make up the framework, to be applied at both site and surrounding landscape/seascape scale

The four core indicators capture unique and complementary aspects of the state of nature to create a holistic assessment using the minimum number of measurements. They align closely with the elements of Goal A of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and build from existing guidance, e.g. UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting: Ecosystem Accounting. The indicators are designed to be applied at the site and landscape/seascape level, where the site denotes the area under the user's direct control and the landscape/seascape covers the area surrounding the site that could impact or be impacted by its operations. The landscape/seascape application was found to provide essential context for the site-level measurements, as well as providing a more accessible measurement option where traceability to site-level was limited, e.g. in some supply chains.

	Site	Landscape/ seascape context				
			ECOSYSTEM EXTENT	ECOSYSTEM CONDITION	SPECIES EXTINCTION RISK	SPECIES POPULATIONS
						
Key question the indicator answers			Are ecosystems expanding or shrinking?	Is ecosystem condition improving or declining?	How important is the area to overall species extinction risk?	How healthy are the species populations present?
Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Goal A alignment			"..substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050"	"The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored.."	"Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold.."	"..the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels"

Metrics table

The metric descriptors are designed to be sufficiently prescriptive to drive the robustness and comparability of metric outputs, whilst allowing for the evolution of the underlying measurement and calculation approaches as science and technology evolve.

METRICS								
	Ecosystem extent		Ecosystem condition		Species extinction risk		Species populations	
Site	Area, losses, and gains in extent of natural ecosystems (including semi-natural) by type (ha, %)	1	Area, losses, and gains for each condition class (ha, %), by ecosystem type, considering elements of structure, function and composition	2	Species extinction risk measurement showing the contributions of the site to global extinction risk	3	Number and proportion of priority species with estimated populations that are 1) declining, 2) slowing in decline, 3) stable, and 4) increasing.	4
Landscape/ seascape context	Area, losses, and gains in extent of natural ecosystems (including semi-natural) by type (ha, %)	1	Values and change in structural and functional connectivity between natural ecosystems	5	Species extinction risk measurement showing the contributions of the landscape/seascape to global extinction risk	3	Number and proportion of priority species with estimated populations that are 1) declining, 2) slowing in decline, 3) stable, and 4) increasing.*	6

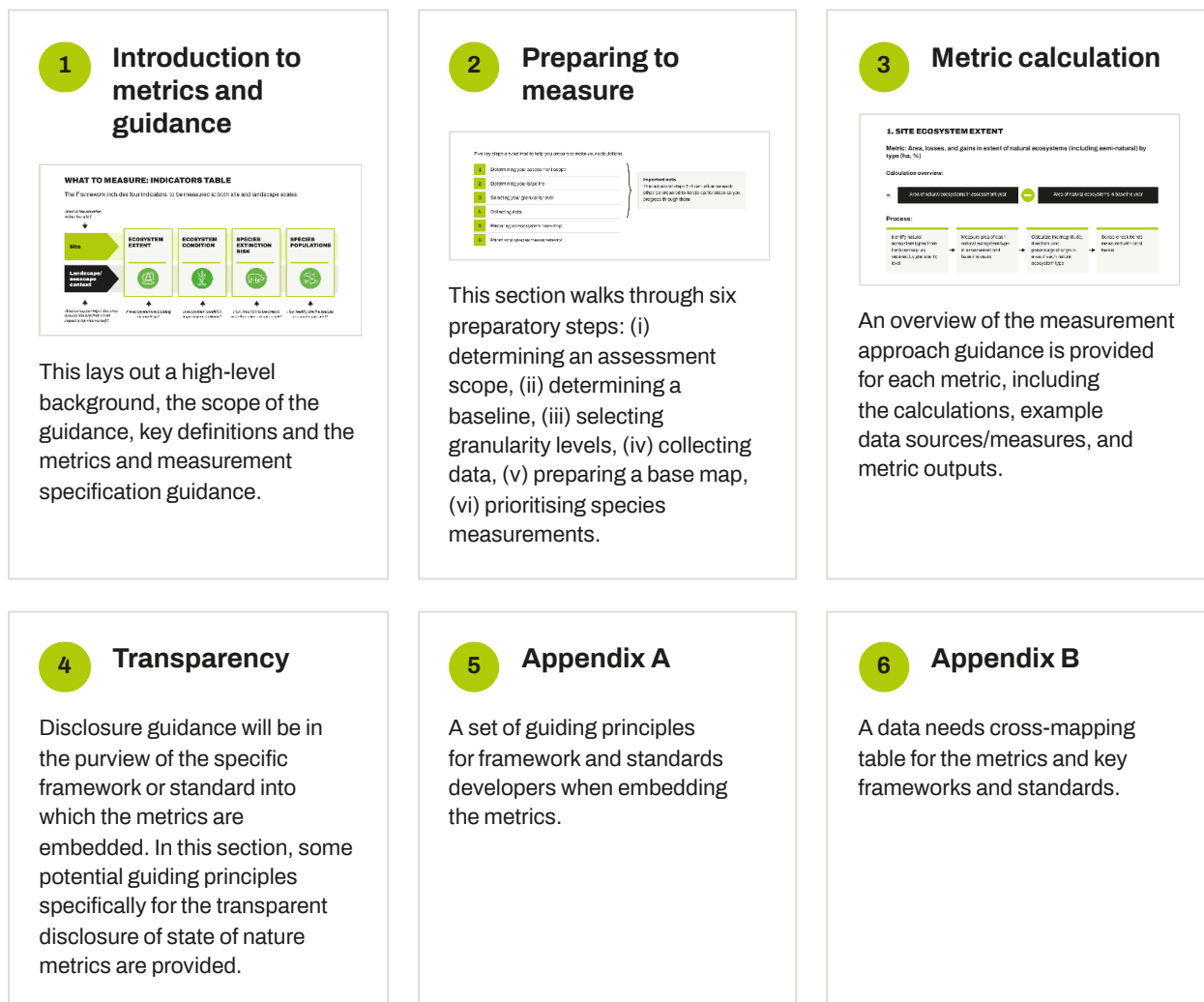
*Important note: To be measured where possible, however it is recognised that further work on data availability needs to be undertaken to make measurement more feasible.

- 1 The scope of natural ecosystems for the extent and condition metrics is aligned with the GBF metadata definition and includes semi-natural habitats. The requirement to provide a breakdown by type of ecosystem facilitates visibility over any conversion between natural and semi-natural ecosystem types
- 2 The scope of the condition metric aligns with extent metric so that the changes in both area and condition of each ecosystem type can be clearly accounted and transparent. The guidance and measurement specifications give more detail on how the different elements can be calculated
- 3 The species extinction risk metrics put the site and landscape/seascape's impacts on species into the context of the overall risk of losing those species
- 4 The species population metric focuses on the trends in populations of priority species, enabling them to be aggregated. A Species Selection Filter in the guidance aids prioritisation
- 5 The landscape/seascape condition metric differs from the site-level as it captures the connectivity aspects that become significant at this scale. Where datasets exist, the guidance also encourages users to apply the site-level metric across the landscape/seascape
- 6 The species population metric at the landscape/seascape scale is included in the framework to ensure it is holistic and future-proof, whilst recognising that this metric is less feasible for implementation at time of publication due to data limitations

Initial Measurement Guidance overview

The Initial Measurement Guidance is now available and builds upon user feedback from metrics piloting, feasibility assessments and consultations.

The guidance walks through the process of calculating the metric set from start to finish. It focuses specifically on measurement and can be referenced by relevant frameworks and standards as part of broader guidance on applying the metrics in particular use cases. It incorporates process flow charts, example data sources and calculation measures, options for streamlining measurement approaches, links to further guidance on specific topics and cross-mapping to key external frameworks and standards. Key topics include measurement specifications for each metric granularity level, how to develop a base map to underpin the calculation of all the ecosystem metrics and a Species Selection Filter to guide the prioritisation of species for population measurement. Importantly, the guidance is intended to be iterative over time and updated as needed to incorporate new data sources and approaches that enhance the practicality and robustness of the metrics.



Next steps: embedding indicators and metrics

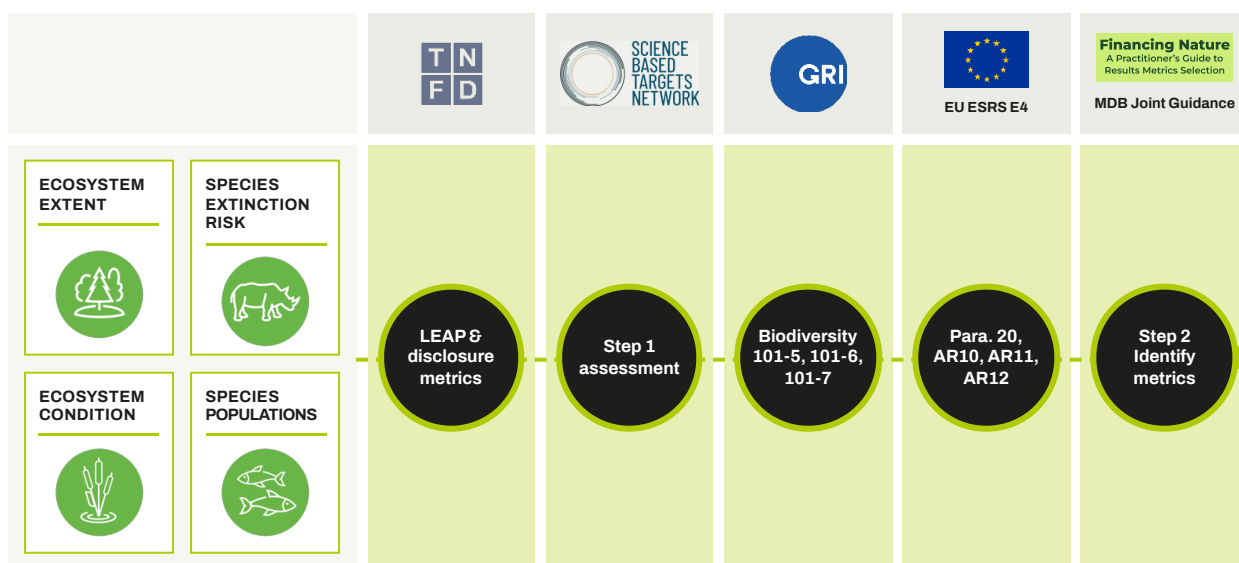
The State of Nature Indicators and Metrics are not intended to be an additional reporting framework, but rather embedded consistently across existing standards and guidance to streamline measurement efforts and increase interoperability.

Developers of mandatory and voluntary nature-related standards and guidance are encouraged to embed the indicators and metrics in order to increase interoperability, comparability and ultimately ease of measurement for users, and some early movers are already leading the way.

Why should standards and guidance owners consider embedding the State of Nature Indicators and Metrics?

- 1 These metrics complete the pressure-state-response approach to enable robust and transparent assessments of nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities
- 2 They bring the credibility established by a global, multi-stakeholder consensus-building process, representing current best practice
- 3 Testing has found the metrics to be practical, and they will become more so as data and tools developers align their products to help calculate them
- 4 Metric adoption helps align frameworks with GBF and other national/global goals, particularly Target 15 and Goal A
- 5 Consistency in metric requirements across frameworks facilitates streamlining and efficiency for users, enabling them to focus more of their efforts on action for nature

Examples of how the metrics can support meeting the requirements of key frameworks and standards



Good to know: Data collected for a wide range of existing frameworks can also be reused to calculate the metrics – see Appendix B of the Initial Measurement Guidance for examples

Calls to action

The metrics and outputs they generate will have maximum impact when adopted as widely as possible, and we all have a role to play in achieving this.

Nature Positive is an urgent, whole-of-society goal that requires individual actions to contribute to a collective response. Key calls to action for how you can contribute to the successful adoption of the State of Nature Indicators and Metrics are outlined below – and you may have your own ideas and inspiration for your contribution too.

FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE DEVELOPERS

1

- Consider how the metrics could be embedded in your approach – where would they fit? What use case-specific guidance might be needed?
- Refer to the principles for embedding in Appendix A of the Measurement Guidance
- Take steps to embed the indicators and metrics as appropriate for your use case

FOR DATA OWNERS AND TOOL DEVELOPERS

2

- Refer to the Initial Measurement Guidance and Sections 6 and 7 of the Technical Report
- Assess how your organisation could help address the needs identified to improve the practicality of metric calculation, e.g. by filling data gaps, aligning with measurement specifications, automating calculations etc.

FOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

3

- Refer to the Initial Measurement Guidance and Sections 6 and 7 of the Technical Report
- Consider how your organisation could help build the capacity of metrics users, e.g. by providing training or sector-specific implementation guidance
- Engage with potential users and standards bodies to support metric adoption

FOR NATURE PRACTITIONERS

4

- Refer to the Initial Measurement Guidance and the use case implementation guidance you are applying (e.g. the standard where the metrics are integrated). Appendix A of the Technical Report has further advice and case studies from piloting companies.
- Assess your readiness for calculating the metrics, then adopt the metrics consistently

FURTHER RESOURCES:

[Initial Measurement Guidance](#)

[Technical Output Report](#)

See www.naturepositive.org/metrics



The business imperative is clear, the knowledge and tools are in place and we at last have consensus on indicators and metrics. There can be no more delay: now we need nature-positive action for a safer, prosperous and more equitable future.

