



TERCER EJERCICIO PROMOCIÓN INTERNA

PARTE A

Biodiversity and the economy

This report is based on a twofold observation: the rapid collapse of biodiversity due to human activities, and the chronic underestimation of the effects of this collapse on the resilience of societies.

Marked by mass species extinction, a reduction in genetic diversity, and the degradation of ecosystems, the accelerating erosion of biodiversity is primarily due to five human-driven pressures: changes in land use, overexploitation of resources, pollution, climate change, and invasive alien species. These pressures, and the resulting decline in biodiversity, ultimately threaten the Earth's habitability for the human species.

While 50% of the world's GDP directly depends on biodiversity, the significance of its erosion remains not only poorly understood but often overshadowed by the climate crisis, which is better recognized due to the existence of aggregate indicators to quantify it. The overrepresentation of climate issues in public debate sometimes leads to an underestimation of the efforts needed to preserve biodiversity. The fight against climate change can, in fact, lead to the implementation of solutions that inadvertently harm biodiversity, further hindering the crucial role biodiversity plays in regulating the climate, such as mitigation and adaptation solutions to climate change, including carbon sequestration, reduction of drought and erosion risks, etc.

This underestimation is due to conceptual and methodological challenges. On a conceptual level, the notion of human beings as living in an urban environment, entirely separate from the ecosystems from which they exploit resources and derive benefits, reduces nature to a disembodied concept, and fosters various social and political fantasies. From a methodological perspective, the difficulty in defining aggregate indicators to quantify the services provided by nature, as well as the positive or negative impacts of human activities, has contributed to inaction or fragmented efforts, hindering effective and efficient action.

A collective awareness, shared by businesses and citizens alike, is essential to implementing solutions that reconcile climate and biodiversity. Constraint and setting examples have fed improvement. Non-financial reporting was a first step toward integrating biodiversity into strategic planning. The second step involves building indicators, although the complexity inherent to living systems makes the creation



of a single indicator, similar to CO₂-equivalent metrics, unrealistic. However, some indicators have been developed to help companies measure their biodiversity footprint in order to set a path for reducing pressures. The third step involves integrating biodiversity into private sector decision-making. This requires mapping the issues, dependencies, and risks involved for businesses. Indeed, the ecosystem services that biodiversity provides for free today are largely overlooked, be it economically or in the social consciousness.

Although biodiversity preservation is mainly perceived as a constraint, it can quickly become an opportunity for economic development, one that economic players need only seize and capitalize on. Mechanisms and initiatives designed to manage resources sustainably, such as payments for environmental services or the development of nature-based solutions, must, however, be further explored and complemented.

Recent legislative developments, such as the entry into force of the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive), should allow for an initial analysis of the risks, opportunities and impacts across the entire value chain of human activities.

The consequences of biodiversity decline on food, health, and industrial sovereignty also argue in favour of strengthening biodiversity-related criteria in trade agreements, with the aim of making biodiversity a component of European extraterritoriality. The competitiveness of businesses will be dependent on biodiversity preservation, thus requiring further development of environmental and economic diplomacy. It is therefore up to the public authorities to support the changes brought about by private players, to better integrate biodiversity in their business models.

While the private sector seems increasingly committed to preserving biodiversity, it continues to struggle to highlight its actions: labels, certifications and philanthropic initiatives, all suffer from a lack of visibility and credibility. The COP15 on Biodiversity, held in Montreal at the end of 2022, marked the high point in terms of the shared responsibility of states and businesses, both of which have committed to achieving specific targets for reducing strains on biodiversity.

Based on this observation, this report recommends that the first course of action be the creation of a European biodiversity framework capable of effectively distributing responsibilities between public and private players. Such a framework would require a scientific definition of the key concepts as a starting point.

Supporting the integration of biodiversity into resource management and economic models is the second imperative. This involves compensating for additional measures taken by businesses, including agricultural ones, in favor of biodiversity. In particular, the mechanism for payments for environmental services will need to be improved, and citizens should be encouraged to help tackle conservation challenges through the French mechanism of Real Environmental Obligations (ORE). Gradually,



biodiversity preservation or restoration actions should be seen not as additional costs but as investments in natural capital, essential for the sustainability of businesses.

1. What does this report primarily focus on?

- A) The impact of climate change on biodiversity
- B) The economic benefits of biodiversity
- C) **The effects of biodiversity loss on human resilience**
- D) The overexploitation of natural resources

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the five human-driven pressures affecting biodiversity?

- A) Climate change
- B) Invasive alien species
- C) Pollution
- D) **Urban migration**

3. What percentage of global GDP depends directly on biodiversity?

- A) 30%
- B) **50%**
- C) 70%
- D) 90%

4. Why is biodiversity often overshadowed by climate issues in public debate?

- A) Because biodiversity collapse has less effect on human life
- B) Climate issues are easier to understand
- C) **Climate issues have quantifiable indicators**
- D) Due to fewer media reports on biodiversity

5. How might climate change solutions inadvertently harm biodiversity?

- A) **By focusing on carbon emissions alone**
- B) By raising energy costs for developing countries
- C) By reducing international cooperation on conservation
- D) Through increased exploitation of mineral resources

6. What challenge does the report identify in understanding biodiversity's value?

- A) A lack of educational campaigns
- B) An overemphasis on technological solutions
- C) **Challenges in establishing aggregate indicators**



MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

- TRIBUNAL -

PROCESO SELECTIVO PARA INGRESO

EN LA ESCALA DE TITULADOS DE ESCUELAS TÉCNICAS DE GRADO
MEDIO DE ORGANISMOS AUTÓNOMOS DEL MINISTERIO DE MEDIO
AMBIENTE, CONVOCADO POR RESOLUCIÓN DE 28 DE DICIEMBRE
DE 2023

D) Misunderstandings about urban vs. rural life



7. How does the urban perception of nature affect biodiversity awareness?
- A) **It creates a view of nature as a disembodied concept**
 - B) It encourages environmental responsibility
 - C) It leads to increased local conservation efforts
 - D) It makes people more connected to natural resources
8. What is essential for effectively addressing biodiversity loss, according to the report?
- A) Increased legal regulations on pollution
 - B) Greater reliance on renewable energy sources
 - C) **A collective awareness shared by both businesses and citizens**
 - D) More agricultural subsidies
9. Which of the following describes the third step in integrating biodiversity into the private sector?
- A) Building public awareness campaigns
 - B) Developing a single biodiversity indicator
 - C) Expanding agriculture to uninhabited regions
 - D) **Mapping biodiversity-related risks for businesses**
10. Why is biodiversity preservation considered a potential opportunity for economic development?
- A) It offers direct financial returns
 - B) **Sustainable resource management can create new business opportunities**
 - C) It increases the tourism potential of regions
 - D) It replaces the need for renewable energy
11. Which mechanism mentioned helps support biodiversity-friendly resource management?
- A) Carbon offset initiatives
 - B) Environmental tax incentives
 - C) International trade tariffs
 - D) **Remuneration for environmental works**
12. How does the CSRD contribute to biodiversity preservation?
- A) By enforcing global climate regulations
 - B) By promoting biodiversity-related agricultural practices
 - C) **By providing an analysis of biodiversity threats along value chains**
 - D) By setting emissions standards for companies



13. How can trade agreements impact biodiversity, according to the report?

- A) By excluding biodiversity-related criteria
- B) **By incorporating biodiversity preservation standards**
- C) By promoting faster resource exploitation
- D) By decreasing agricultural exports

14. What do public authorities need to do to support private sector efforts in biodiversity preservation?

- A) Develop local business partnerships
- B) **Enhance diplomatic efforts in both economic and environmental areas.**
- C) Subsidize fossil fuels
- D) Remove all conservation restrictions

15. What challenge does the private sector face in promoting its biodiversity efforts?

- A) Excessive government intervention
- B) Lack of funding for biodiversity projects
- C) **Restricted awareness and trustworthiness of programs**
- D) Insufficient customer interest

16. Which event marked a major point for shared biodiversity responsibility among nations and businesses?

- A) COP26
- B) COP27 on Climate Change
- C) **COP15 on Biodiversity**
- D) The Paris Climate Agreement

17. What does the report recommend as the first course of action for biodiversity preservation?

- A) **Developing a framework for biodiversity across Europe**
- B) Developing eco-friendly technologies
- C) Increasing biodiversity-related trade regulations
- D) Raising consumer awareness about ecosystem services

18. Which approach is recommended to compensate businesses' biodiversity-friendly efforts?

- A) Carbon tax credits
- B) Direct consumer subsidies
- C) **financial incentives for their effort**
- D) Investment in fossil fuel alternatives



19. How should biodiversity preservation be viewed in the long term, according to the report?

- A) As a cost-saving strategy
- B) As a financial burden
- C) As a necessary but temporary solution
- D) **As an investment in environmental assets**

20. What role do "Real Environmental Obligations" (ORE) play in biodiversity preservation?

- A) They help enforce legal consequences for biodiversity loss
- B) They are a public awareness campaign for endangered species
- C) **They involve citizens in conservation efforts**
- D) They restrict biodiversity-related investments