

Business as a catalyst for connectivity conservation

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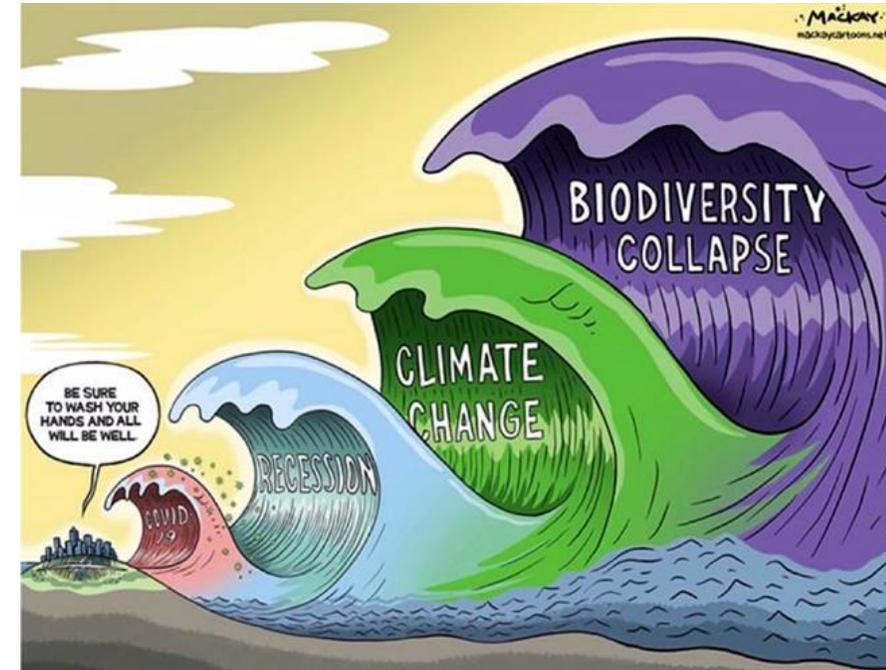
CCF – Connectivity
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Biodiversity: why should business care?

- ▼ IPBES – Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 – We face a planetary emergency.
- ▼ 1 million plant and animal species are threatened of extinction.
- ▼ Biodiversity underpins all life on Earth and provides us with much needed ecosystem services such as pollination, flood control, clean air as well as human mental and physical well-being
- ▼ World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2020– lists biodiversity loss among the top 5 global risks in terms of likelihood in 2020.
- ▼ \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world’s total GDP – is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services and, as a result, exposed to risks from nature loss.



Landscape Connectivity. A call for action

World Business Council for Sustainable **Development** – 2017
 WBCSD is a global, CEO led organisation with over 200 members and a combined revenue of more than \$8.5 trillion



Key benefits that are directly and/or indirectly supported through infrastructures and landscape connectivity

Environmental	Economic	Social
Air quality	Additional income	Aesthetics and recreation
Carbon sequestration	Brand reputation	Culture and history
Conservation of species	Increased crop yields and quality	Ecotourism
Food, habitat and species mobility	Financial gains	Education
Gene flow	License to operate	Human health and wellbeing
Pest control	Property value increase	
Pollinator species	Recreational revenues	
Soil conservation		
Water regulation and protection		

Source: WBCSD Landscape Connectivity. A call for action

Three key approaches for businesses along with other stakeholders



- ▼ 1 – Using marginal land in rural and industrial areas
- ▼ 2- Implementing, supporting and developing incentives for spatial planning.
- ▼ 3 – Introducing green infrastructure in and around urban areas

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- ▼ 1 – Using marginal land in rural and industrial areas
- ▼ Creation of richer habitats in field margins and riparian zones by reivers
- ▼ Winter flooding of rice fields in temperate regions thus creating a comprehensive water network
- ▼ Better crop production systems, including tree crops and shade crops, to increase landscape permeability
- ▼ Restoring uncropped and abandoned areas can provide the necessary functional and structural elements for establishing ecological networks.
- ▼ Benefits from this can include increased yield or higher market value and demand as a result of implementing biodiversity measure.

Three key approaches for businesses along with other stakeholders



▼1 – Using marginal land in rural and industrial areas

▼2- Implementing, supporting and developing incentives for spatial planning.

▼Stakeholders should consider using the most current tools to carry out impact assessments, including connectivity conservation metrics in their spatial planning.

▼Oil and gas, resource extraction, agriculture and construction companies should incorporate fragmentation and mitigation strategies into their planning.

▼These can include certification schemes which award connectivity conservation best practices.

▼Companies should think about the Matrix management whilst doing their spatial planning.

▼In the England, the UK Government has indicated it will be mandatory for all development to demonstrate a 10% increase in biodiversity in or near new developments. This an opportunity to (re) establish connectivity using spatial planning. The right elements in the right places.

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 - ▼3 – Introducing green infrastructure in and around urban areas
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- ▼Companies can enhance connectivity by integrating their infrastructure into a “green network system” e.g. Eu Strategy on Green Infrastructure and the Urban Infrastructure.
 - ▼Benefits from this include: lower operation costs, higher building value and lower lifetime costs.
 - ▼Green urban infrastructure can create alternative routed between disconnected natural ecosystems.
 - ▼Abandoned and unused spaces can be transformed in urban gardens, acting as corridors and stepping stones.

Next steps



- ▼ Raise awareness of the corporate sector of the benefits of investing into connectivity conservation.
- ▼ Encourage companies to include landscape-level planning and implementation.
- ▼ Encourage the use of marginal land in agricultural and urban landscapes.
- ▼ Encourage companies to align with Science Based Targets for nature, developed by the Science Based Targets Network.
- ▼ The corporate sector should disclose their biodiversity impact including how they affect connectivity and how they are mitigating their impact. For this, simple connectivity conservation metrics would be helpful.

The corporate sector should aim at having a robust Corporate Biodiversity Strategy in place



IUCN

Guidelines for planning and monitoring corporate biodiversity performance

IUCN GLOBAL BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME

SSC Species Survival Commission

SPECIES MONITORING Specialist Group



Source: Stephenson & Carbone, 2021

