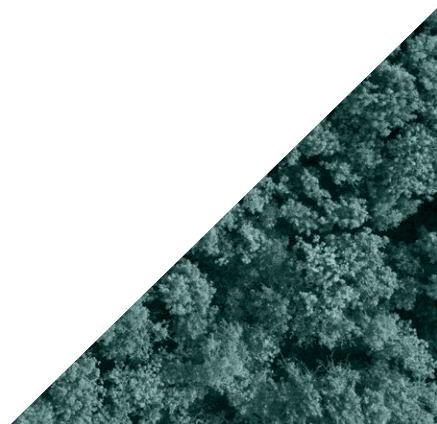


Nature Handbook for Food & Drink Manufacturers



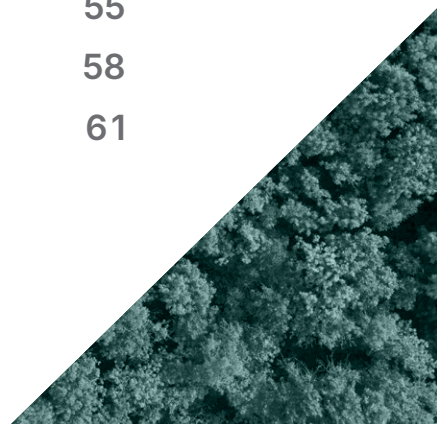
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1. Foreword

The UK's food and drink industry is central to our daily lives and economy. It's the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employing nearly half a million people and is present in every community.

But from farm to fork, the sector is not only dependent on nature to grow food, it is at the same time a significant contributor to climate change and biodiversity loss. Our food system depends on healthy soils, clean water, and stable weather, but climatic pressures are intensifying, and the shocks to our supply chains are putting food system resiliency at risk.

Through our Ambition 2030 programme, we are therefore committed to the UK's Nature Positive ambition to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. Encouragingly, momentum is building and businesses are investing in a wide range of nature-based solutions, both directly and through collaborative action programmes.

But we must go further. Nature restoration must be central to how we produce food and drink. Every business has a role to play in reversing nature loss and building a resilient, sustainable future.

This Handbook supports this drive by providing practical guidance to help manufacturers understand their relationship with nature, assess their impacts, and the meaningful steps they can take from procurement through to activities on farm.

Together with our partners across the farm to fork supply chain, this is our moment to act – with urgency and ambition.

Handbook prepared by:



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2. Executive Summary

The last years have been the consecutively hottest years ever recorded with wildfires, floods, and droughts. This brings into sharp focus the increasing risks to food security from global temperature rises and climate change, given the food and drink sector's dependency on the environment and the decline in nature's ability to meet our needs. Nature Restoration is therefore integral to achieving a sustainable resilient food system and to meet the needs of a growing population.

This Handbook is to help food and drink manufacturers assess their exposure to land-based nature-related supply chain risks and put in place strategies to mitigate and overcome these. Specifically in the context of climate adaption, businesses will need to identify and manage their risks, in order to secure the long-term sustainability of their businesses in delivering food to the nation. Whilst this Handbook focuses on opportunities within the United Kingdom, the need for action abroad and to support a Just Transition for those most at risk from climate change is also covered.

The 'Nature Positive' Initiative is to drive global action on reversing environmental decline and restoring nature, with specific reference to 2030. Further information on the definition is [available here](#) – but the core to this definition is simple: 'protect what is left and improve the rest'.

The Handbook is authored by the FDF and the Broadway Initiative with support from WWF, GFI, Natwest, 3Keel and RSK ADAS, with manufacturers and organisations offering a range of case studies. The handbook's objective is to help manufacturers work towards the shared goal of becoming Nature Positive by 2030 – a key pillar of FDF's [Ambition 2030](#) programme.

The strategy has five pillars:



Net Zero



Nature Restoration



Sustainable Commodities



Food Waste



Packaging

Specifically on nature, the handbook aims to help manufacturers progress towards the shared goal of becoming Nature Positive by 2030. Whilst the focus here is on the value chain where the greatest impact lies, businesses should also consider how they can improve nature on their own manufacturing sites, through [biodiversity net gain](#) approaches and looking into requirements of [local nature recovery strategies](#).

This Handbook leads businesses through the process of:



Understanding the business case for action



How to engage the Board and process to follow



What a risk assessment entails



How procurement practices are the first line response



Working with farmers directly



Collaborating with others in collective action projects



Engaging with credits and offsets



How to set targets and report



Understanding the various financing routes

3. Introduction

Our food system is dependent on the environment, yet is also one of the most significant contributors to climate change and nature loss affecting the land's ability to raise the crops and livestock we need. Without change, soil quality and the wider ecosystem will further degrade, and with increasingly volatile weather will lead to significant challenges in maintaining food system resilience.

Governments around the world, have therefore committed to integrating agriculture and food systems into their action plans on climate change ([UNEP, 2023](#)).

For the UK, the Government has published the [Environmental Improvement Plan](#) with the specific the specific objective to halt the decline of nature by 2030.

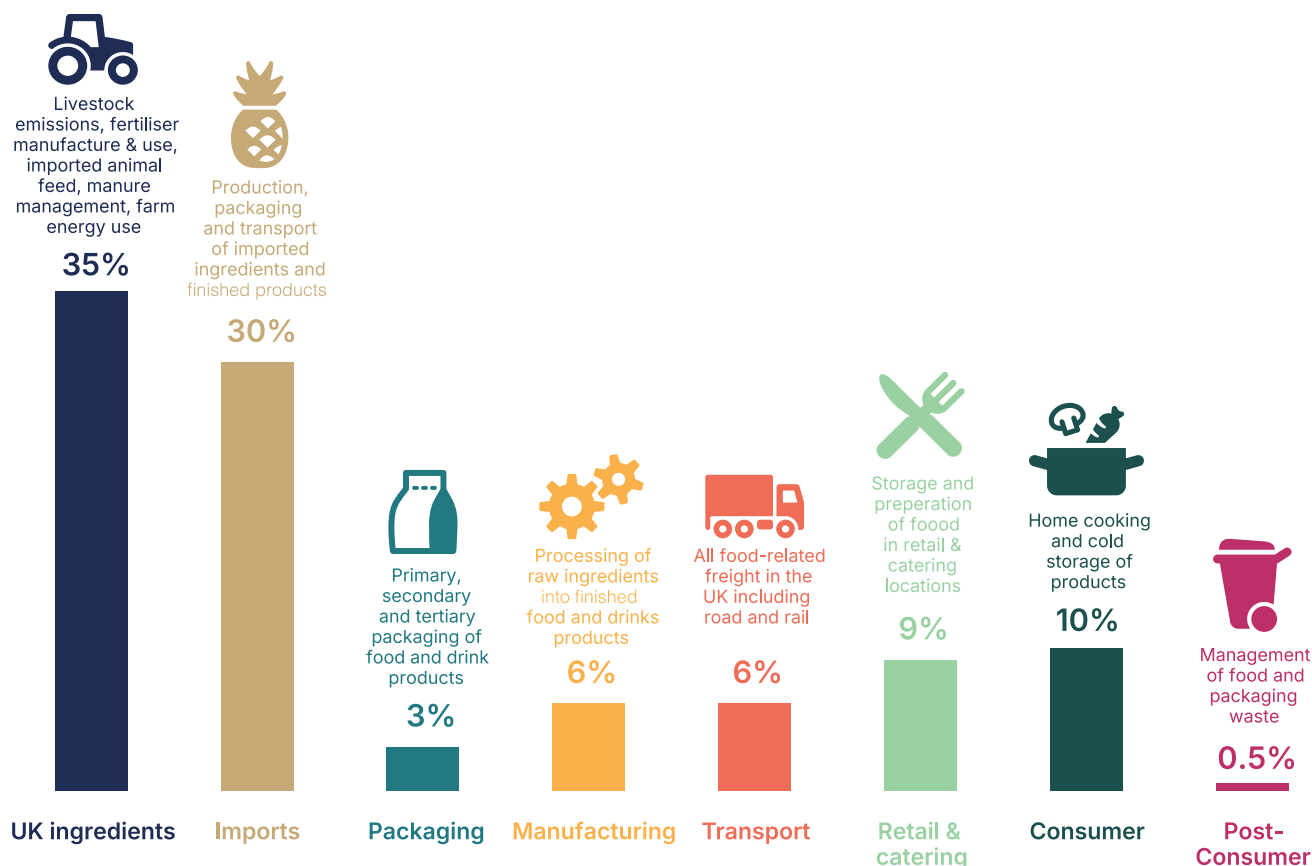
This nature ambition is underpinned by the following targets:

- At least 40% of soil into 'sustainable management' by 2028
- Protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030
- Farmers to adopt nature friendly farming practices on 70% of land by 2030

To meet these targets however, a step level change in investment is needed to bridge the UK funding gap in nature restoration: in 2022 when the [Financing UK Nature Recovery Initiative](#) launched its report, this stated that over the next 10 years to 2032, the shortfall was at least £44bn.



Food and Drink Manufacturing (FDM) must also contribute given its central place in the food system, since, as per figure 1, the sourcing of ingredients (both within and outside of the UK) makes up around a quarter of the UK's carbon footprint:



*Figure 1: Emissions footprint of food consumed in the UK
([FDF Net Zero Handbook, 2021](#))*

The sustainable procurement of ingredients is therefore key to delivering on both carbon reduction and nature, two key pillars of FDF's [Ambition 2030](#). This handbook encompasses a focus on actionable mitigation measures with attainable funding models for all manufacturers. It is also aligned to [FDF's maturity curve approach](#) recognising the different contributions companies can make according to the stages they are at in their sustainability journeys. Central to this, is the premise of 'no regrets actions' with accessible routes to funding, whilst acknowledging that there are still questions to answer around monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) and the accompanying policy framework.

4. Role for Business

Investing in nature restoration projects and transitioning farms to regenerative practices can take several years. Yet the structure of the farm-to-fork supply chain and the financial pressures this ultimately places on farmer livelihoods, inhibits farmer ability to raise capital, take calculated risks and make investments: whilst farmers and land owners manage around 70% of the UK's land, they only receive around 10% of the supply chain value, according to a [Green Alliance report from 2017](#). The rest of the supply chain, manufacturers, retailers and others must therefore find solutions to channel more finance into farming.

The WWF in collaboration with Natwest has over recent years looked exactly at this: how to finance a regenerative agricultural transition. [The WWF report](#) published in 2024 provides an excellent starting point to understand the challenges and the actions that the food supply chain can start taking. Many of these are included in this Handbook with SMEs also able to support through procurement practices, building consumer awareness and collaborating with others in terms of collective action (section 7.2).



Yet it is important to recognise that companies will be at different stages of developing and implementing their nature strategy and this ties in to the maturity curve for the nature pillar under Ambition 2030 (figure 2 below).

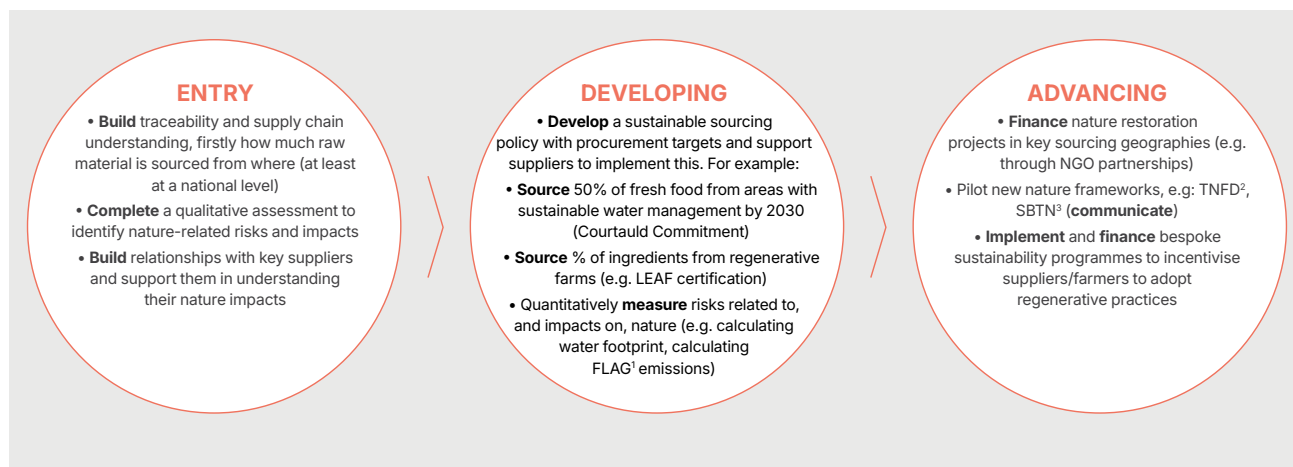


Figure 2: Ambition 2030 – Nature Maturity Curve

Whether at Entry, Developing or Advancing level, this chapter outlines the approach you can take to help your organisation progress along the maturity curve.

4.1 Talking to the Board

But how do you get your company to spend time and resource on this area? The Green Finance Institute has made available [these resources](#) for people presenting a business case to Boards on why and how businesses can get started. These are based on the framework from the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), which we have also used to structure this Handbook.

The first section to cover is on the drivers for action – the ‘why’ on getting involved. The second section looks at the options businesses can take – the ‘what’ of getting involved. The third section is on the governance, and the reporting and disclosing – the ‘how’ of monitoring and measuring progress.

Understanding Double Materiality

When presenting to stakeholders, the most common understanding of materiality is around what financial impact factors influencing business success may have.

Conversely, companies underway with their sustainability strategies are recognising that they in turn too have an impact on the environment outside of the business. Evaluation of this impact takes an inside-out perspective.

What links these two perspectives is that they are not mutually exclusive, they co-exist and in turn reinforce each other (figure 3 below). For example, in food production, soil degradation is paid for through higher levels of artificial fertilizer applications, increasing costs to produce, whilst soil health continues to degrade with existing farming practices with the need for ever more inputs to maintain yield.

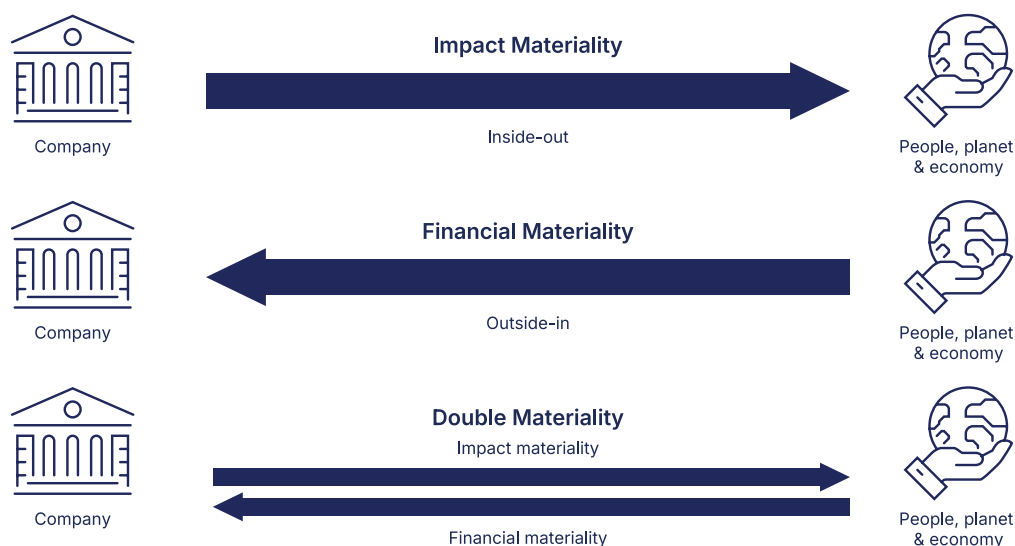


Figure 3: What is double materiality ([Paia, 2023](#))

This is a key new perspective that needs to be brought to boards' attention: articulating what impact businesses have on the environment, whilst looking at the increasing pressures on the environment to deliver what businesses need – and what risks that presents to future business performance.

4.2 The Business Case

For companies already investing in nature, there are a number of key drivers for doing so. The first one is on improving supply chain's resilience to the impacts of climate change, with a close second, on reducing the company's carbon footprint – their scope 3 carbon emissions.

In essence, it is about investing in the supply chain whereby measures undertaken serve to both restore nature and reduce carbon simultaneously to support long term business success, and counter the increasing nature related operational and financial risks being faced.

Indeed, to achieve long-term business profitability and resilience requires the acknowledgement of and adaption to the various risks associated with climate change and nature loss as embedded across each pillar of the supply chain (Figure 4). Specifically for manufacturers these are highlighted in the column around ‘impact on markets’ and form the key drivers for businesses to invest in nature and farming:

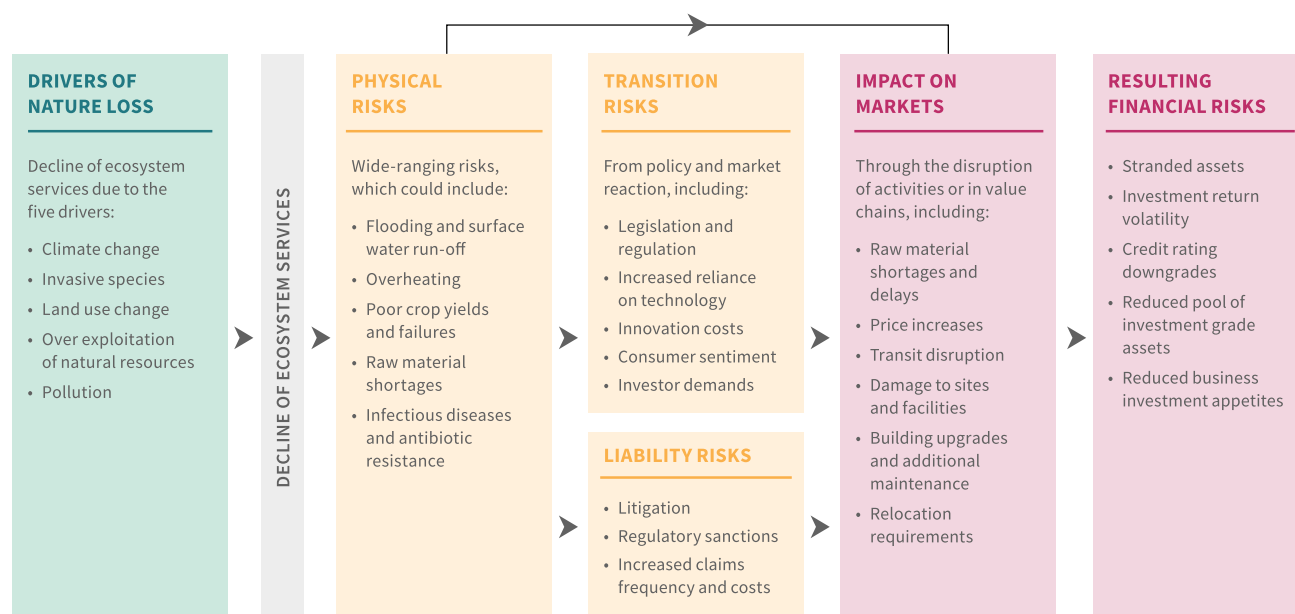


Figure 4: How do the drivers of nature loss lead to financial risks? ([ABI](#))

Research undertaken by the FDF over 2025 has also shown that, for food and drink manufacturers already investing in nature and farming, the main levers can be summarised as follows:

Operational: The primary reason is that the food system and supply chains are under increasing pressure arising from erratic weather events associated with climate change ([Duncan, 2023](#)) and the loss of biodiversity alongside depletion of soil. By supporting farmers, manufacturers are investing in supply chain resiliency, to ‘build a food company for 20 years’ time, driving a true transition to ensure we’ve got a resilient food business and company and farming infrastructure’.

Legal & Regulatory: The benefits of carbon reduction or sequestration from nature restoration activities constitute another key lever for investments, by contributing to an organisation reducing its scope 3 carbon footprint. This will be an account of corporate goals and objectives aligned with demand from investors. Looking ahead, investing in nature projects now provides the opportunity for FDM to get involved and help shape evolving government policy, given that existing policies and progress are insufficient to meet the Government's nature positive targets under the Environmental Improvement Plan. With a minimum of a [£44billion](#) shortfall of investment into nature over the period 2022 to 2032, new frameworks and incentives, to expand corporate investment activity are likely ([WWF, 2024](#)).

Reputation and Marketing: Doing the right thing in supporting sustainable practices makes good business sense, for your supply chain partners, your business and the consumer. Moreover, demonstrating taking responsibility is important from a reputational and license to operate point of view.

Over time, there may also be business benefits with environmentally conscious customers through companies reducing their environmental footprint and increasing their green credentials as for example seen with 'products labelled as regenerative hitting the shelves of Waitrose and M&S' ([Burrows, 2023](#)).

Financial: The alternative to investing in supply chains is to be exposed to greater volatility in supply alongside the financial impacts of seeking alternative sources, where for some businesses, the input cost increases over the last 5 years are an early warning sign of inflationary pressures to come. Furthermore, poor soil quality already costs UK agricultural productivity c. [£246m pa](#) and around [€50 billion pa](#) across the EU through lower yields and fertilizer application.

Societal: The overarching purpose of our food system is to feed a growing global population and to have a positive societal impact. To keep achieving this, the supply chain needs to better support farmers in the environmental and economic challenges they are facing. By supporting sustainable practices and long-term farmer livelihoods, this will help drive a healthier and more resilient supply chain which is essential for food and drink manufacturing to prosper.

4.3 The Process

Manufacturers can follow the four stages shown below (figure 5), when creating a business case and action plan:

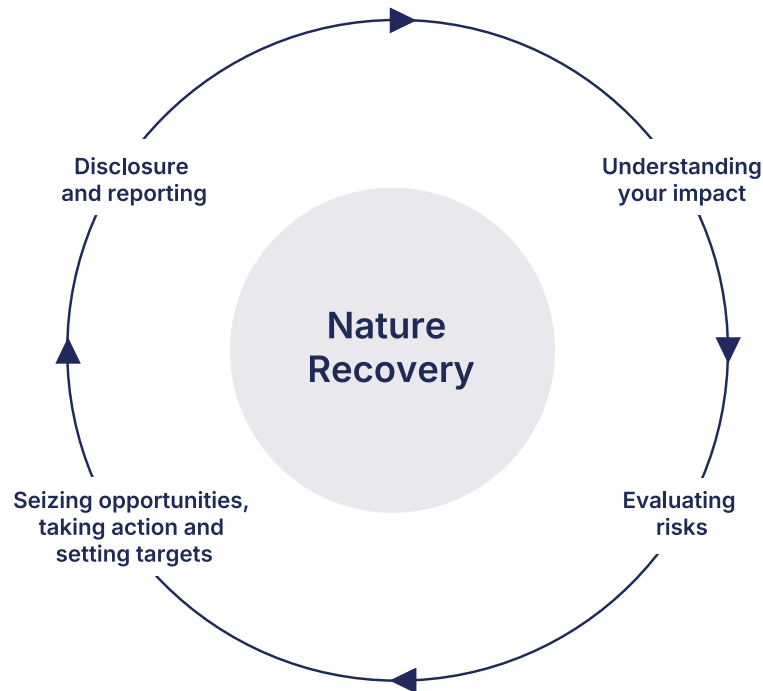


Figure 5: Actions and reporting on nature recovery

Evaluating impacts and risks

The first action to take is an assessment of your suppliers whether these be directly with farmers, through intermediaries or with globally traded commodities. Chapter 5 goes into more detail, but this will involve:

- Building traceability and supply chain understanding, firstly how much raw material is sourced from where (at least at a national level), taking a mass balance approach as required
- Complete a qualitative assessment to identify nature-related risks and impacts
- Undertaking scenario planning to give more context and scale to the risks identified

Segregated vs Mass Balance? Segregated models of sourcing means certified commodities are kept physically separate from non-certified commodities.

This differs from the mass balance where certified and non-certified commodities are mixed either during storage, transport, or production. Mass balance approaches should be taken where there is no alternative: mass balance approaches may still find it difficult to be verifiably free from environmental harms due to the mixing of materials and commodities.

Seizing opportunities

Overall, incorporating a risk assessment into an organisation's evolving procurement strategy (Chapter 5) and then to start supporting the financing of nature restoration programmes in key sourcing geographies (Chapter 6), underpins the activities as highlighted in FDF's Maturity Curve for Nature (see figure 2). Starting with a risk assessment to guide activities, it is essential to prioritise actions according to the mitigation hierarchy of avoiding, minimizing, restoring and finally offsetting activity (figure 6 below).

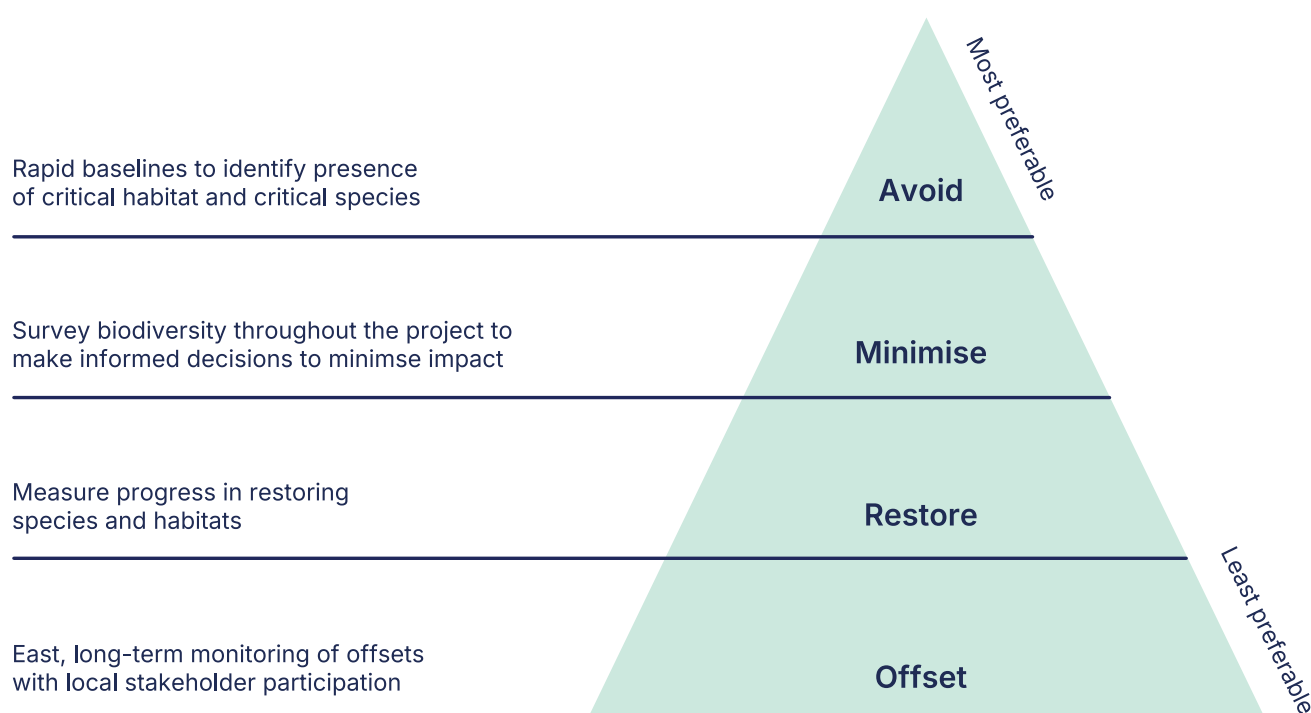


Figure 6: Mitigation Hierarchy

Reporting & disclosing

The final stage is around reporting and disclosing (see Chapter 9), not only for internal review to support learning and effective decision making, but also for demonstrating sustainability credentials externally for example in maintaining and securing business-to-business contracts. Furthermore, with the increasing importance of sustainability issues, especially to Generation Z and millennials ([Popaitoon, 2022](#)), not only are there reputational benefits amongst consumers, but [research shows](#) improved sustainability practices can also increase employee satisfaction, improving both retention and recruitment.

Overall, whilst there are known challenges and uncertainties around metrics, methodologies, measurements and data collection techniques, consistency and transparency will always be central. What is important to recognise is the direction of travel, and not to delay action on account of not having perfect data or methodology approach. This will be solved over time as market moves towards greater harmonisation, and the Government-sponsored Food Data Transparency Partnership will be one such facilitator.



5. How to Start

The first action to take is an assessment of your suppliers whether these be directly with farmers, through intermediaries or with globally traded commodities.

Whilst reporting requirements on manufacturers have increased significantly over recent years, on Climate and Nature, the Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosures ([TCFD](#)) and the Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures ([TNFD](#)) outline how companies should assess their exposure to key climate and nature risks:

Climate-related risks are categorised into two types:

- Transition risks, associated with the shift towards a low carbon economy, encompassing policy, legal, technological, and market changes
- Physical risks, directly resulting from climate change, such as severe weather events, rising sea levels, and higher seasonal temperatures

Climate-related opportunities include:

- Resource efficiency initiatives
- Transition to low-emission energy sources
- Development and distribution of climate-friendly products and services

Nature-related risks look at the same categories of transition and physical risks alongside opportunities, but from the perspective of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

5.1 TNFD Framework

Focusing on nature, the TNFD builds on the 11 core disclosure requirements under TCFD, plus an extra three making 14 in total, and structured around four key pillars:

- 1. Governance:** The governance processes, controls and procedures the organisation uses to monitor and manage nature-related issues
- 2. Strategy:** The approach the organisation uses to manage nature-related issues
- 3. Risk and impact management:** The processes the organisation uses to identify, assess, prioritise and monitor nature-related issues
- 4. Metrics and targets:** The organisation's performance in relation to nature-related issues, including progress towards any targets the organisation has set or is required to meet by law or regulation.

5.2 Risk Assessment

To help organisations identify and assess nature-related issues and inform disclosure, the TNFD has prepared guidance [available here](#).

The so-called 'LEAP' process is a 'step-by-step' approach to evaluating nature-based risks and opportunities and has four main components (Figure 7 overleaf):

- Locate your interface with nature.
- Evaluate your dependencies and impacts on nature
- Assess your nature-related risks (exposure) and opportunities
- Prepare to respond to nature-related risks and opportunities and to report on your material nature-related issues. These could encompass particular commodities with a higher risk to biodiversity, sourcing geographies with higher water scarcity or biodiversity risks.

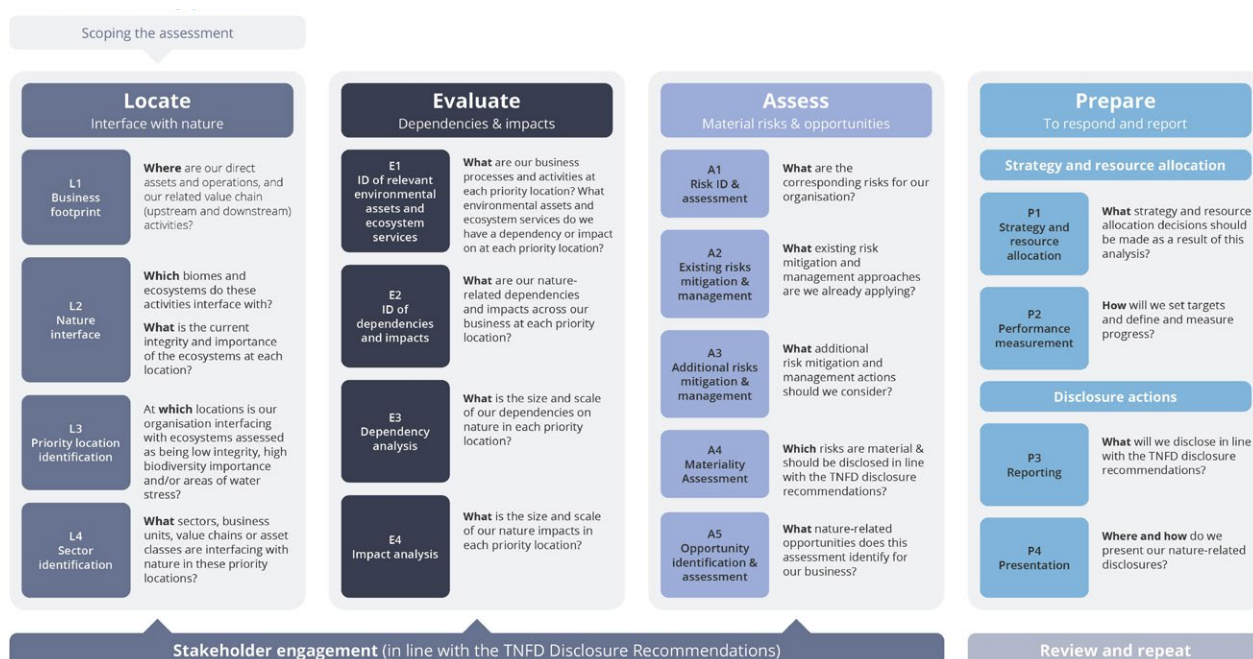
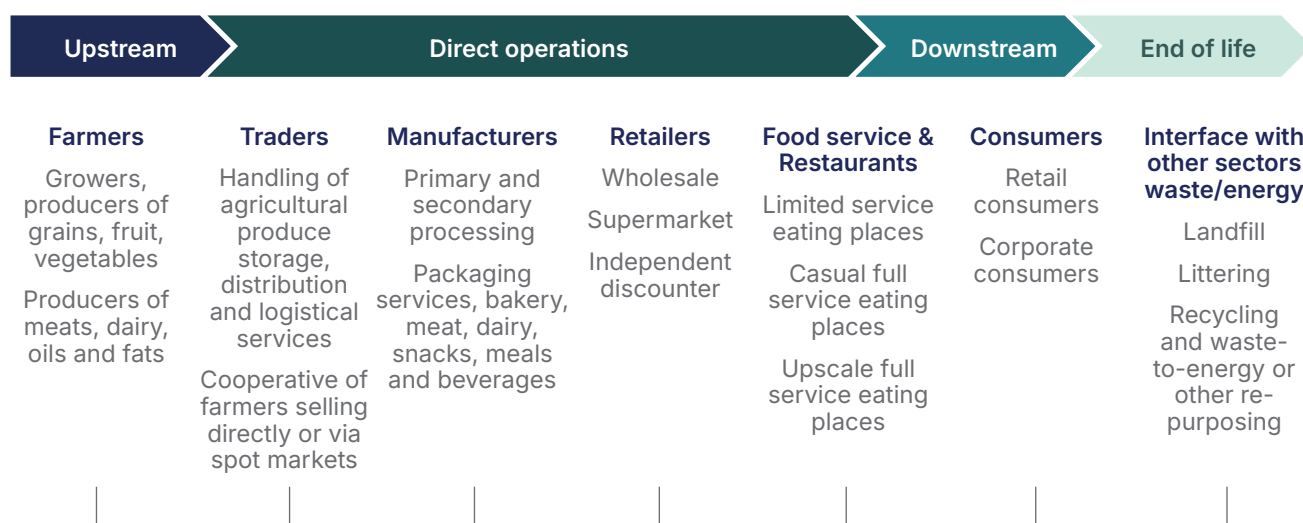


Figure 7: **LEAP**: A risk assessment process

The questions at each consecutive stage are designed for use by organisations of all size across all sectors. There is also sector-specific guidance with additional metrics as follows:

- Beverages
- Food and Agriculture
- Value Chains

For FDM, it is necessary to consider the full supply chain (Figure 8 overleaf) to identify where and to what extent, there are dependencies on nature (including farming, water, flood prevention) as well as where there is an impact on nature (including water use, pollutants and solid waste).



Resource transformation: Agricultural chemicals, fertilisers, agro biotech, containers and packaging include plastic and bottles

Transport: Including airfreight, marine transportation, rail transport and road transport

Infrastructure: Real estate, silos, mills, industrial processing sites, retail stores and warehousing

Figure 8: Illustrative food and agriculture value chain ([TNFD 2024](#))

At each of these supply chain stages, risks and opportunities should be identified. Examples of these are shown in Figure 9 overleaf and are derived from where companies see both their dependencies and impacts on nature as discussed above.

It may be helpful seek guidance from the [TNFD resource hub](#) and to utilise third party support in undertaking this analysis. A couple of examples of this include the Global Biodiversity Score and the RIISE platform.

Risk and opportunity		Examples of risks and opportunities
Physical risk	Acute	Revenue reduction due to increase in crop and livestock pests and disease Increase in production and sourcing costs due to high or extremely high baseline water stress Increase in capital expenditure on infrastructure repair due to damage by flooding, landslide or other natural disaster in food company operations
Transition risk	Market	Market share loss due to slow adoption of environmentally friendly plastic packaging Adoption of biodiversity net gain requirements Market share loss due to increasing consumer preferences for food produced via regenerative practices and/or for plant based, sustainably produced protein
Transition risk	Reputation	Loss in revenue due to reputational damage caused by business contamination of ground water, eutrophication, plastic pollution, deforestation and/or emissions
Opportunity	Resource efficiency	Full traceability of ingredients with high-risk exposure to embodied nature related risks reduce certification and compliance costs Reduction in input costs because of investment into precision farming technologies Increase in market valuation due to regenerative farming practices and increase in percentage of natural vegetations enhancing ecosystem services and environmental assets (e.g. soil structure increases resilience to weather-related shocks) Percentage reduction in input

Figure 9: Example risks and opportunities (TNFD)

Global Biodiversity Score

Launched in 2020, the Global Biodiversity Score (GBS) is a pioneering tool offering a structured, transparent, and scalable approach to biodiversity accounting. Developed by CDC Biodiversité (France) the tool helps corporates improve supply chain transparency and supports scenario modelling for setting science-based targets and building their biodiversity strategy. It allows users to map both positive and negative impacts across Scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions, linking financial and operational data to environmental pressures such as land use, climate change, pollution, and hydrological disturbances. There are 5 tiers of data quality under the GBS as illustrated in Figure 10 below.

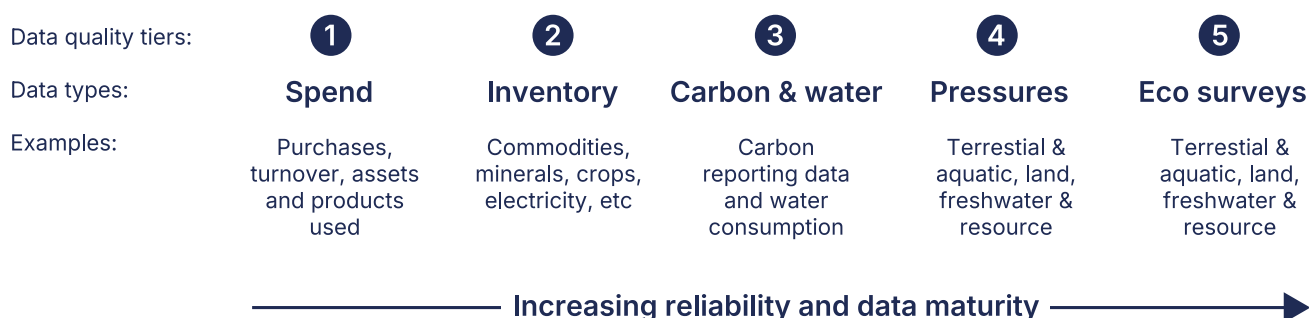


Figure 10: GBS data quality tiers

Case Study: Almo Nature Biodiversity Foot printing in Agricultural Supply Chains

Italian pet food company Almo Nature employed the GBS to assess biodiversity risks embedded in its upstream agricultural supply chains, primarily in Scope 3. Using input-output modelling, GBS allowed Almo Nature to calculate biodiversity impacts related to the production of key commodities like grains, meat, and fish used in its recipes.

The GBS assessment quantified pressures across multiple categories, including land use conversion, atmospheric nitrogen deposition, and freshwater eutrophication, enabling the company to pinpoint biodiversity hotspots by commodity and region. Results showed significant impact concentrations in feed grain supply chains and intensive meat production zones.

By integrating supplier spend data and known sourcing origins, Almo Nature mapped the materiality of its biodiversity impacts, identifying which supply chain actors were linked to the greatest ecological pressures. As a result, the company-initiated supplier engagement programs and committed to increasing the share of biodiversity-positive ingredients in its product portfolio.

GBS also supported forward-looking scenario setting: Almo Nature modelled how a shift toward alternative proteins and organic-certified sources could reduce its biodiversity footprint by more than 20% over five years, guiding its strategy toward nature-positive targets and enhancing transparency in environmental reporting.



RIISE platform

Combining climate and nature science, risk analytics and financial quantification on its proprietary RIISE platform, Risilience offers comprehensive solutions for companies to report on, assess, and quantify both physical and transition climate- and nature-related risks. This involves both a qualitative screening of risks to support the 'locate' and 'evaluate' stage, as well as the financial quantification of key risks following the principles laid out in the 'assess' and 'prepare' stages of the LEAP framework.

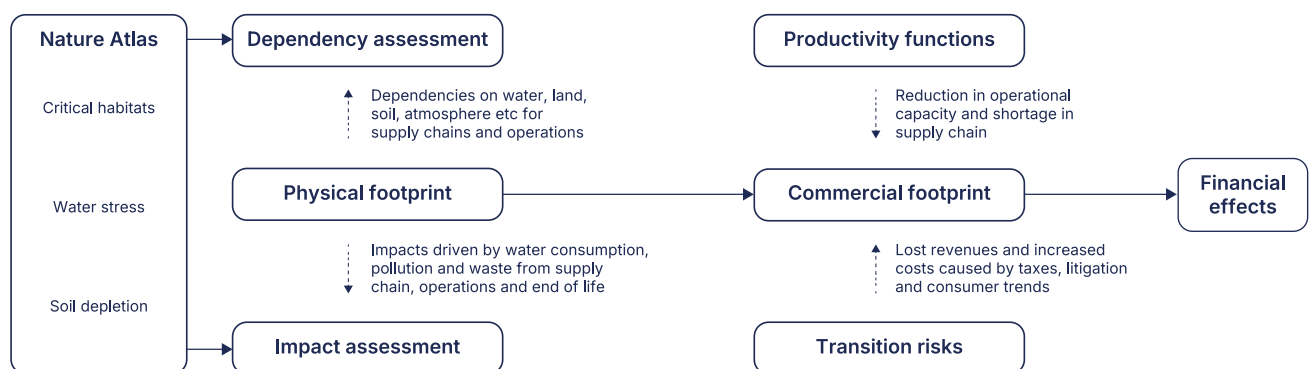


Figure 11: Risk assessment process using the RIISE platform



Case Study: Nature-Related Risk Assessment in Food Production Supply Chains

A global food producer engaged Risilience to scope material nature-related risks and opportunities across its value chain in line with TNFD and ESRS-E2, E3, and E4. The company aimed to assess the significance of its dependencies on water, soil, and biodiversity, and to understand the financial implications of associated risks and impacts.

Using a digital twin of the company's operations and supply chain, Risilience identified and ranked nature-related risk hotspots linked to raw material sourcing and key facilities. The analysis quantified hotspots across critical ecosystem services, particularly freshwater use, pollution, and soil health, enabling the company to map where exposures were most material across geographies and commodities.

By integrating internal data and working closely with group environmental managers and the sustainability team, Risilience highlighted significant vulnerabilities in the company's food production footprint. Results highlighted the importance of sustainable resource use and resilient sourcing strategies, particularly in regions where water and soil pressures intersected with biodiversity loss.

The assessment informed the development of policies, actions, and targets to address identified risks while ensuring compliance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). By embedding these insights into business planning, the company strengthened its environmental stewardship and positioned itself to meet evolving regulatory requirements.

Forward-looking scenario modelling also demonstrated how strategic shifts could reduce exposure over time, guiding the company toward nature-positive outcomes while enhancing transparency in sustainability reporting.

6. Procurement

The rest of this handbook now focuses on the 'Prepare' stage of the LEAP process around actions to manage risks and opportunities. This starts with setting a procurement strategy.

6.1 Setting a Strategy

Procurement strategies are a tool food and drink manufacturers have to address the nature impacts and risks that are embodied in their purchase of inputs and ingredients.

The LEAP approach set out in the [TNFD framework](#) (section 5.1) provide a lens through which to assess your procurement functions' environmental impact, nature risks and dependencies alongside potential areas for improvement. These will vary given that many businesses purchase on commodity markets through intermediaries, whilst others have direct relationships with farmers and growers, or a combination of the two. The nature of these relationships means how manufacturers can engage with their suppliers on nature issues and in support of farming, will vary.

6.2 Working with Suppliers

The National Farmers Union (NFU) have produced a set of principles to help businesses reduce the environmental impact of products across the agrifood supply chain. These principles can be applied whether engaging via intermediaries or with farmers directly, and include:

- Agreeing and collaborating with farmers and growers on environmental ambitions
- Agreeing contracts which prioritise long term sustainable returns, as well as investment in environmental practices
- Knowledge exchange across the supply chain: advocating and promoting the work of farmers and growers in improving their environmental impact
- Supporting growers on impact calculation

6.3 Certifications

The use of certifications is one approach businesses can take to evidence that their supply chains are both environmentally sustainable and equitable for growers. The following are examples of both domestic and international schemes and frameworks, and are an illustration of what companies can align to as appropriate to commodity type and location. Other international certifications such as the Rainforest Alliance and Fair Trade are the most well-known and cover most commodities and ingredients.

LEAF

Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) is an environmental assurance system which recognises more sustainably produced products and crops through promoting Integrated Farm Management (IFM).

The LEAF standard is based around [nine principles](#) of IFM which include:

- Supporting farmers' economic resilience
- Minimising the environment's impact on livestock and livestock's impact on the environment
- Enhancing habitats and biodiversity on farms
- Managing water quality and reducing pollution
- Enhanced soil conservation
- Improved energy efficiency
- Implementing regenerative practices to mitigate negative impacts of farming, sequester carbon and improve soil health

The LEAF marque is applied to whole farms (i.e. all products, land, and farming activities within control of the farming business), rather than to specific outputs from a single farm.

LEAF also operates internationally. There are 877 LEAF Marque certified businesses in 19 countries across the globe. This comprises over 310,000 hectares (245,000 of which are in the UK). The top crops grown on LEAF certified farms include celery, lettuce, asparagus, and cherries.¹

¹LEAF [Progress Report](#) 2022.

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Following public campaigns concerning the sustainability of palm oil, many businesses have taken action to ensure their palm oil supply chains are deforestation and conversion free (DCF). According to the UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative, 86% of total palm oil imports into the UK are RSPO certified sustainable; either segregated or mass balance.

[RSPO](#) is a non-profit member organisation with over 5,000 NGOs, institutions, purchasers and manufacturers of palm oil amongst its membership. The main principles of RSPO certification relevant for nature include:

- Production must not cause deforestation or damage any high conservation/high carbon stock areas
- Growers must monitor and identify occurrence of protected species of plants and animals
- Burning land is forbidden

What is Deforestation and Conversion Free? Deforestation-and conversion-free (or DCF) commitments are made to avoid producing goods on land that has been converted from natural habitat—including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and savannahs.²

RSPO has a commitment to protecting biodiversity in sourcing geographies and manages conservation areas in palm-producing countries across the globe. These conservation areas amount to almost half a million hectares. RSPO report very high levels of compliance (99.1%) with their biodiversity standards among members.

RSPO commissioned research concluded in 2020 that well-managed palm cultivation provided an opportunity to reduce biodiversity loss and increase biodiversity in certain areas. RSPO certification criteria mandate that plantations assess their risks to biodiversity. Where rare or endangered species are present, plantations must implement conservation measures including prevention of hunting/poaching. In addition to the RSPO, the Fairtrade segregated standard also provides evidence for DCF products.

² RSPO 2024 [Impact Report](#)

Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)

Soy is a key input for the UK food system, both as an ingredient itself and embedded in supply chains in animal feed. The UK imported 2.2 million tonnes of soy in 2022, of which 1.2 million tonnes was certified as deforestation and conversion free, but 551,000 tonnes were not covered by any certification scheme.

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) estimate that in 2022, around 60% of the UK's direct soy imports were imported compliant with DCF schemes and standards, or compliant with Amazon Soy Moratorium contracts.

Amazon Soy Moratorium

The Amazon Soy Moratorium was signed in 2006 and ensures that soy production in the Amazon only occurs on existing converted agricultural land, not on land which has been deforested or converted from native vegetation. Since implementation, soy production has increased in the region, but soy-related deforestation has decreased. The Moratorium is signed by some of the world's biggest food companies, retailers, and investment funds.

[RTRS](#) certification is applicable the production of soy and corn for various purposes including human consumption and animal feed. Certification includes assessment of environmental impact of production and of good agricultural practices for production of soy and corn.

Methods of certification under RTRS range from mass balance to segregated and chain of custody models for entire supply chain. These methods provide different levels of assurance and traceability.

A [list of certifiers](#), the standards texts, and further detail on methods of certification is available on the RTRS website.

7. Investing in Nature

Companies can also invest directly into nature from single-farm schemes supported by individual manufacturers to multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships involving water companies, retailers, NGOs, and local authorities. Importantly for SMEs, these opportunities are not just for global corporations: smaller businesses can also engage through cooperatives, procurement initiatives, or by partnering with trusted intermediaries that specialise in verification and delivery of outcomes. There are a number of options, with the priority always being nature interventions within the value chain. This is referred to as 'insetting' or Within Value Chain Mitigation (WVCM).

Definition of WVCM

WVCM activities are interventions within a company's value chain that are designed to generate greenhouse gas emission reductions and/or carbon storage, and at the same time create positive impacts and improve the resilience of communities, landscapes and ecosystems (adapted from [Abatable](#), 2023).

Value chain traceability to the production landscape is a prerequisite to distinguish WVCM activities from offsetting. In contrast to general scope 3 decarbonisation activities, WVCM interventions are typically targeted at the production or rearing stage of agricultural raw materials (pre-farm gate) and are largely based on regenerative agriculture and agroforestry practices.

This chapter covers a range of interventions at the farm level, from engagement directly through to collective action projects. There will also be opportunities with other organizations as well such as the Wildlife Trusts, British Trust for Ornithology, Butterfly conservation, Bumblebee Trust, Plantlife and the People's Trust for Endangered Species which all have initiatives.

The role of credits rests at the end of the nature restoration hierarchy and is covered in section 7.3, but whether investing in insets, or using credits for offsetting, it is important to ensure a consistent baseline upon which to base improvements. Demonstrating 'high integrity' to provide confidence for all participants, from farm to fork, is the focus of chapter 8 on target setting and reporting.

7.1 Farm Level

Manufacturers can work to support farmers in their supply chain both directly and via intermediaries. This can form part of procurement discussions and negotiations with suppliers as outlined in section 6 or through investing directly or via third parties as outlined via examples below.

Third Party Investors

Some manufacturers are partnering with financial institutions or specialist funds to channel capital into nature-based solutions. Examples include:

- [Rabobank's](#) Agri3 Fund – financing regenerative agriculture and forest protection
- [Avalo.ai](#) – using AI to identify and fund high-impact nature projects
- Green bonds or sustainability-linked loans – tied to nature or climate KPIs

These models offer scalable, professionally managed routes to impact.

RSPB – Fair to Nature

Businesses can work with the [RSPB](#) to bring expert conservation and habitat advice to support farmers within your supply chain. Based around a science-led framework and drawing on over 40 years of practical experience, the RSPB's advisory service works closely with farmers, suppliers, and landowners to develop tailored, actionable recommendations and plans for creating and improving wildlife habitats. These efforts are central to restoring and protecting nature on farmland and building more sustainable resilient farm systems across the UK.

As a trusted and recognised conservation charity, the RSPB also supports businesses in communicating their nature and biodiversity commitments to customers, helping to demonstrate real impact on the ground.

Regenerative Agriculture

According to [FAIRR](#), over half of the food and drink manufacturers they surveyed in 2023 had started looking at regenerative agriculture. Whilst there are some different definitions based on either processes employed or outcomes sought, the key principles (from [Groundswell](#)) are:

- Crop biodiversity
- Surface soil protection
- Maintain living roots
- Minimise soil disturbance
- Livestock integration

Following these principles enables flexibility to tailor solutions around cover crops, tillage, intercropping to local farming conditions (landscape, soil and weather) and crop type (whether perennial or annual, and harvesting process for example potatoes compared to wheat). As appropriate to the conditions and crop, through the use of new processes, inputs and new equipment, RegenAg helps to improve soil health (and store more carbon emissions), reduce fertilizer and pesticide inputs and improve biodiversity, may help to store more water in times of drought and to reduce run-off in periods of intense rainfall.

The urgency for channelling investment into RegenAg results from around [50% of agricultural lands](#) currently being moderately to severely degraded. This includes agriculture in the UK where already back in 2017, soil degradation alone was costing UK agricultural productivity c. £246m pa ([Green Alliance, 2017](#)) and around €50 billion per year across the EU ([FDE, 2023](#)) through lower yields and fertilizer application.

However transitioning farming systems to RegenAg can take around 5 years over which yields can fall before returning to pre-transition levels, meaning the need for bridging finance to maintain farmer incomes. This is where the supply chain can help: whilst farmers and land managers manage 71% of the UK's land ([DEFRA, 2022](#)), they only receive around 10% of the supply chain value ([Green Alliance, 2017](#)). Consequently, if there is to be more agriculture based on regenerative principles, then the supply chain needs to channel more finance to farmers to do so. As an example, this series of reports from [WWF](#) explores the financing needs of dairy farmers in the UK who are transitioning from an industrial farming system to a regenerative one.

How can this be done? Companies can support RegenAg programmes through direct relationships with farmers in their supply chain or through collective action projects as outlined in section 7.2. For more information, there are many helpful sources offering support. This includes '[The Allerton Project](#)' which offers training for businesses, the [SAI platform](#) which is a global framework for regenerative agriculture used by a number of stakeholders and bodies such as the [WWF](#) who have published a roadmap for financing a regenerative agriculture transition.

Case study: Allerton Project



The GWCT Allerton Project is an award-winning 320-hectare research and demonstration farm based in the village of Loddington, Leicestershire. Since 1992 we have worked to demonstrate how modern, productive farming can co-exist alongside a thriving natural environment and climate action. Much of the modern UK agri-environment handbook is based on our science, and we welcome some 2,000 visitors per year from across government and the food supply chain to share our experience. We believe that farmers and landscape managers have the solutions to many of the challenges we face as a society.

Over the past three decades, we have been able to showcase a real-world example of flourishing biodiversity, clean water and healthy soils - all while rising to the challenge of feeding a growing global population. Our unique mix of working farm, research and bespoke conference facilities make us a natural destination for businesses looking to understand more about the potential of 'regenerative' agriculture, as well as the challenges facing farmers and growers in a warming climate as we look to tackle sustainability challenges to mid-century.

Joe Stanley

Head of Sustainable Farming

jstanley@gwct.org.uk

Case Study: Suntory Beverage and Food GB&I

In 2023, [Suntory Beverage and Food GB&I](#) launched a regenerative agriculture pilot project for the iconic Ribena brand. In collaboration with the University of East Anglia, Suntory Holdings and Soil Ecology Laboratory, the project takes place across much of the 60 hectares of blackcurrant production at Gorgate Farm in Norfolk, which has been growing blackcurrants for Ribena since the 1950s.

As part of Suntory Group's overall ambition to support crop resilience and reduce carbon emissions from its supply chain, this project aims to reduce Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from blackcurrant production and improve soil health so that it can support plant resilience and increase the amount of carbon it can sequester.

The project focuses on minimising external inputs while improving soil health, plant nutrition and environmental protection through:

1. Sap sampling to better understand and optimise blackcurrant plant nutrition – the theory being macro and micro-nutrient imbalances affect plant resilience and attack by pests and diseases
2. Utilisation of novel and organic inputs (both fertiliser and crop protection) to replace conventional inputs
3. Creation of diverse alleyway swards to feed the soil and increase carbon
4. Improvements to soil health and carbon sequestration through the utilisation of compost extracts to restore soil microbiology

In collaboration with the University of East Anglia, Suntory Holdings and the Soil Ecology Laboratory, SBF GB&I launched its pilot regenerative agriculture project in April 2023 at one of the Ribena blackcurrant farms, Gorgate Farm in Norfolk.



It is hoped that the principles and learnings developed will lead to a step change in sustainable production not just in blackcurrant but for many other crops well into the future. Creating a blueprint that could support other growers as they start their regenerative agriculture journey.

WWF Research on UK Dairy Farms



WWF's latest [research on UK dairy farms](#) transitioning from industrial to regenerative systems shows that, in many cases, regenerative farms are more:

1. Profitable than they were prior to transitioning, as they have lower costs and retain more of their revenues.
2. Resilient and respond better to price shocks (fuel, fertilizer, milk), as they rely less on expensive inputs and can access additional revenue streams.

The analysis also includes five case studies of farmers who either are transitioning or have transitioned to a regenerative system. The case studies capture the actions that the farmers adopted, the reasons for adopting them, and their outcomes.

7.2 Collective Action

Collective action can deliver coherent, joined-up environmental improvements with multiple stakeholders sharing the costs and benefits associated with improved soil quality, whether through carbon sequestration, more resilient supply chains, less flooding and run-off into rivers. For food and drink manufacturers, collective action potentially offers a lower cost path as well as a way of investing in farms that produce commoditised crops that manufacturers purchase through intermediaries.

By partnering through established platforms such as Soil Association Exchange, Projects for Nature, Landscape Enterprise Networks or WRAP Collective Action Projects, these can provide access to robust governance structures, shared scientific rigour and transparent monitoring. Furthermore, not only are the costs shared across more parties, but the integrity of investments is well evidenced, ensuring that every pound spent contributes to real, additional and enduring gains in biodiversity, soil health and ecosystem services across entire catchments or regions.

Soil Association Exchange

The [Soil Association Exchange](#) (SAE) is a collaborative platform that brings together food and drink manufacturers, farmers, NGOs and technical experts to drive regenerative agriculture and nature recovery at scale. Rooted in rigorous scientific principles, SAE provides a framework for co-designing projects—such as soil carbon enhancement, hedgerow restoration or pollinator habitat creation—where multiple suppliers within a supply chain can participate under a common methodology. This collective approach ensures that environmental outcomes are measured consistently (often using the UK Biodiversity Metric or equivalent soil-health indicators) and verified by accredited third parties. For food and drink manufacturers, engaging with SAE means:

- **Shared Methodologies:** All participants follow a common set of science-based protocols, reducing the risk of inconsistent or inflated claims about soil health and biodiversity gains.
- **Transparent Monitoring:** SAE's governance protocol requires periodic third-party audits, giving buyers confidence that recorded improvements are real, additional and enduring
- **Economies of Scale:** By pooling multiple farms under a single project, SAE lowers transaction and verification costs while delivering landscape-scale benefits—aligning with the Nature Markets Dialogue's emphasis on coherent, joined-up interventions.

Manufacturers can join SAE as convenors or funding partners, co-investing in project design and monitoring, and then claim traceable, high-integrity nature outcomes against their sustainability goals.

Case study: Riverford

Riverford, the organic veg box company, is three years into a partnership with Soil Association Exchange to better understand and improve the environmental impact of its UK farm suppliers.

What began as a pilot with 10 farms has now expanded across the full UK supply base. Each farm receives a whole-farm baseline assessment, tailored action plan, and expert support to drive measurable, long-term improvements.

Riverford's ambition to be a global leader in sustainable food demands the best data—credible, consistent, and transparent. This information helps Riverford spot risks early, identify where farmers need support, and take a proactive role in strengthening supply chain resilience. It also provides robust, farm-level evidence to support Riverford's wider sustainability reporting and accountability.

The work motivates too. Farmers can now see how they're performing against peers, driving healthy competition and shared learning. Several have achieved standout scores in biodiversity and animal welfare—offering powerful stories for Riverford to share with customers and media.

"This is about creating a genuinely enabling environment for innovation, learning, and progress," says Sustainability Manager Harriet Bell.

Projects for Nature

[Projects for Nature](#) (P4N) is a pioneering platform, connecting businesses, and other donors, with screened nature recovery projects. The platform brings more private investment from corporate donations to support government's ambitious goals for nature recovery in England, which includes creating more, bigger, better, joined-up spaces for nature. By contributing to this network of wildlife rich habitats, P4N supports the government's agenda to address biodiversity loss, create greater resilience to climate change and improves access to nature by supporting nature's recovery.

Projects for Nature connects businesses who have shown leadership in addressing their nature impact, with nature recovery projects that best align with P4N's [domestic](#) and international environmental commitments.

Businesses on the platform have been screened against criteria to protect against greenwashing. Businesses have to demonstrate they are committed to addressing their climate and nature impact, as a precondition of gaining access to the P4N platform. This screening, alongside associated communications guidance, ensures that P4N funding is genuinely additional to businesses' transition towards nature positive and net zero operations and aligns with the mitigation hierarchy appropriately.

By supporting projects on our platform, businesses can demonstrate their contribution to improving nature beyond their supply chain. Businesses can use the diverse portfolio of projects to search and select projects that align best with their strategy and nature priorities, such as those identified when understanding their nature risks through TNFD (Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures) or when setting science-based targets for nature recovery under SBTN (Science Based Targets Network).

Businesses will not be able to purchase carbon credits, biodiversity credits or net gain units through involvement in P4N: involvement in P4N is about taking additional action for nature's recovery.

Case study: Weald to Waves

Since receiving Lloyds Banking Group's funding through Projects for Nature, Weald to Waves has passed the remarkable milestone of mapping and registering over 20,600 hectares of land and over 1,000 gardens and greenspaces as part of our nature recovery corridor making us one of the most significant landscape projects in the UK.

Landholdings registered range from family farms, estates and nature reserves to council-run greenspaces, community woodlands, orchards, allotments and gardens. This network is a testament to the spirit of collaboration among Sussex land managers and communities - many of whom have no history of working together. Despite their diversity, those registering land have found common ground in recognising the value of nature for our economy, health and sustainability. In joining the corridor, they are helping to charter a new pathway for ecosystem recovery, improving water quality, increasing natural flood management, capturing carbon, rebuilding soils, and reversing biodiversity decline. As a heavily farmed and human-influenced region, this is being integrated into productive land management and accessible, active community spaces.

Lloyds Banking Group funding has supported citizen science, farm advice, website and communications capacity, project development and contributed to the development of nature market strategies, which will help bring private investment into Sussex to deliver nature recovery now and into the future. Remaining funds will support team capacity and help to develop a monitoring framework, enabling Weald to Waves to track improvements over time. As more members join and pledge their land to nature recovery the more connected and joined up our landscape gets, improving the flow of biodiversity through the corridor and enhancing the services that nature provides people and wildlife.

The Rivers Trust

Water is a shared resource, and a shared responsibility. At The Rivers Trust, we believe that partnering with businesses of all sizes is essential to tackling the UK and Ireland's most pressing water challenges.

The Rivers Trust works directly with businesses to help protect, restore, and enhance rivers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In addition to our collaborations with water companies, public bodies, and local communities, our partnerships with private sector businesses are vital to amplifying our impact and advancing sustainable water solutions. Last year, our Water Stewardship projects replenished over 4.8 million cubic meters of water to catchments in England and Wales, whilst also restoring habitat, reducing flood risk and improving water quality.

The Rivers Trust offers a unique combination of national insight and local delivery and connects businesses with over 100 Catchment Partnerships and 65 local Rivers Trusts to deliver on-the-ground action at scale and pace. By supporting organisations to take meaningful action on the ground and accompanying them on their Water Stewardship journey, we deliver the sustainable solutions for water our rivers and catchments so desperately need.

Case Study: Replenishing Nature

The Rivers Trust partnership with The Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola GB, and Coca-Cola Europacific Partners supports a range of diverse water management and environmental conservation projects, including initiatives in communities near the company's manufacturing and bottling sites in the UK.

All have a common purpose of conserving and enhancing freshwater environments and each project aimed to improve water quality, reduce flood risk, store carbon, enhance habitat and biodiversity, as well as promote the health and well-being of local communities. To date, the partnership has created over 3,000 square metres of wildlife friendly habitat and planted over 10,000 trees.

These projects have also contributed to the growth of The Rivers Trust's Water Stewardship service by helping businesses gain a deeper understanding of the catchments they operate in, enabling them to invest in targeted projects that drive meaningful and lasting change. Many of our collaborative projects focus on improving business supply chains by working closely with landowners and farmers, supported by our network of over 100 farm advisors across The Rivers Trust movement. These initiatives have engaged hundreds of farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices, implement nature-based solutions, enhance on-farm efficiency, and restore vital freshwater habitat.

In 2024, working with local partner SouthEast Rivers Trust, the partnership delivered on one of its largest wetland projects to date. The Chamber Mead Wetlands in Surrey provide 2,000 square metres of enhanced wet habitat and divert waters from an over-polluted stream away from The Hogsmill, a chalk stream - one of the world's rarest freshwater ecosystems. Wetlands like this provide multiple benefits. They filter out sediment and pollutants, improve water quality, sequester carbon, provide flood storage, mitigate the impacts of droughts by storing water in the landscape, and boost biodiversity.

Today, the wetlands provide a vibrant and rich habitat which has recently enabled the re-introduction of 50 water voles. They are the first water voles to live in the wild in Surrey for over 20 years.



The Coca Cola and SouthEast Rivers Trust
Partnership: Chamber Mead Wetlands
restoration in Surrey

Landscape Enterprise Networks

Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) brings organisations together to co-fund regenerative agriculture and nature-based solutions to drive landscape resilience.

Since 2021, LENs delivered more than €24m from organisations like Nestlé, Diageo and West Northamptonshire Council to 350+ farmers, to implement practices like cover crops, minimum tillage and habitat restoration.

LENs aims to increase soil health, water quality & conservation, and biodiversity, as well as mitigate climate change. Last year alone, LENs farmers reduced and removed 49,370 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent), which is equivalent to 140 hectares' worth of newly planted woodland for the next 100 years.

Beyond environmental outcomes, LENs aims to play a crucial role in food security, de-risking supply chains and supporting livelihoods.

Funding goes to farmers:

- By practice, for those beginning the regen journey
- By performance, for those leading the way
- For innovation, to reduce the risk of trying something new

LENs is active in six regions with more in development: East of England, Yorkshire, Leven (Scotland), Western Hungary, Northern Italy and Western Poland. Its aim is to regenerate the landscapes we all depend on.

Core strengths include:

- **Co-funding reduces costs and maximises outcomes:** In 2024, 11 organisations co-funding practices lead to a tonne of carbon being 1/3 cheaper than when one organisation funds this
- **The impact goes beyond carbon:** They have developed a leading MRV protocol measuring indicators across water quality & conservation, soil health, biodiversity and climate mitigation.
 - Soils saw an average increase of 1.83 tonnes of organic carbon per hectare in just one year, proof that combining multiple practices is an effective way to capture more carbon
 - Average reduction of 14kg ha of nitrogen on LENs farms
 - Since LENs began, 73 hectares of biodiverse habitats have been created or restored, bolstering pollinator populations and wildlife

- Collaboration is at the heart of our approach, which is place-based and landscape-focused:
 - Six local councils and public bodies fund farmers and support our operations (West Northamptonshire Council, Perth & Kinross Council, North Yorkshire Council, Yorkshire Water, The Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland)
 - Our funders have come from many sectors including food & agriculture, utilities, water, insurance and local governments - collaborating on diverse challenges and outcomes across the farm rotation

Case study: East of England

In its fourth year, LENS East of England engaged 112 farms across 14,627 hectares, investing £3.04 million in 41 regenerative practices and 115 farmer-instigated innovations in 2024. The region represents 15% of England's land area, facing challenges from flooding, water scarcity, and soil degradation.

Key funded practices included reduced or no-till cultivation to improve soil structure and water infiltration; winter and year-long cover crops to protect soil, prevent nutrient loss, boost fertility, and sequester carbon; and the planting of native broadleaf woodland for biodiversity, flood mitigation, and carbon capture. Additionally, farmers presented their own capital and infrastructure innovations - ranging from direct drills and soil sensors to new fertiliser applicators - through the programme's open innovation approach.

A first-year pilot of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) was conducted for the 2023 trade, with data collected by [Agricarbon and ADAS](#) - enabling tracking of environmental outcomes and robust reporting.

Supported by a coalition of strategic, demand, and supply partners including Nestlé Purina, Anglian Water, Cargill, PepsiCo, Camgrain, and the NFU the initiative is designed to harness public funding, scale landscape resilience, and build a sustainable, farmer-led model for long-term environmental impact

"We work with LENSs to mitigate our impact on the environment and build more resilience to our sourcing, helping to create a more regenerative food system. We work closely and collaboratively with the LENSs team to achieve success."

Cécile Doinel

Head of Regenerative Agriculture
Purina (Nestlé)

"We signed up to LENSs because it offers an efficient way for us to pay farmers to manage their land in ways that protects the water environment. It's important to us because we rely on these catchments for water we put into supply. Working with others we are able to select a broad range of measures that benefit soil, water and biodiversity that protects the environment in the round."

Chris Gerrard

Head of Landscape Transformation
Anglian Water

"With data generated by LENSs, I was able to demonstrate that our farm was seeking to transition to regenerative agriculture, reduce carbon emissions and improve soil health. I used the LENSs MRV assessment to evidence our farm's natural capital and emissions and was able to set up a bank account with more favourable terms."

Lou Bond

Bruce Seaman Farms
LENSs farm since 2023

Reach & engagement

From 25 farms in 2021 to **289** farms in 2024: working across 5 landscapes, impacting **80,465 ha**

79% **€160**

Farmer retention rate 2023-2024 Average funding per hectare

Trades

€24,000,000

funding to farmers since 2021

11 organisations pooling funding leading to a tonne of carbon being a **1/3 cheaper** than when funding alone

Impact

73 ha

of new biodiversity habitats created since the start of LENSs

47,705 ha

of LENSs-funded practices in 2024, with positive impacts on farm landscapes in England, Hungary, Italy and Poland

49,370 tCO₂e

2024 total emissions reductions and removals (similar to the carbon sequestration of 140 ha of newly planted native woodland over 100 years)

Figure 12: LENSs in numbers

UK Food and Drink Pact: Water Roadmap

The food system is only future-proof if water is, too. Through WRAP's UK Food and Drink Pact and its dedicated Water Roadmap, over 100 businesses are already committed to improving water management and stewardship across supply chains and catchments.

The Water Roadmap sets out a shared ambition for 2030 to:

- Achieve sustainable water management in the most at-risk UK and global sourcing areas, improving water scarcity at a catchment level (over half of the UK's fruit and vegetables are sourced from areas of water scarcity)
- Ensure 50% of UK fresh food is sourced from areas with sustainable water management practices

To help businesses deliver on this ambition, the Water Roadmap provides a practical, structured pathway – from measuring water footprint to taking internal action to improve it. But water challenges are shared risks too, which is why WRAP coordinates Collective Action Projects (CAPs) that bring Roadmap members and stakeholders from across the food system together to tackle water scarcity, soil degradation and biodiversity loss in high-risk food sourcing regions. Members of the Water Roadmap fund and enable this on-the-ground locally led action to protect the ecosystems, farms and communities that rely on their waterways.

The current 10 active projects have returned more than 1.7 billion litres of water to nature, proving that shared investment and collaboration can restore and protect water resources in food sourcing regions. Businesses are urged to join this free, collaborative initiative designed to drive decisive action on the water crisis in our food system – whilst gaining access to expert guidance and tools to take action in your own supply chains.

Visit [WRAP's website](#) to find out more.

[UK Food and Drink Pact: the Water Roadmap](#)

[WRAP - The Waste and Resources Action Programme](#)

Case study: Premier Foods – Southwest England

As a signatory of Wrap's Food and Drink Pact and Water Roadmap, Premier Foods have leveraged the water stewardship ladder to strengthen their approach to water stewardship. This has included through the development of a new water policy and water targets which reflect their commitment to minimise water usage, to effectively manage effluent across direct operations, and collaborate beyond the business through collective action to understand and address water stress where there is a case for building business resilience.

Wrap's latest collective action project (CAP) to get off the ground in the Southwest of England presented a compelling opportunity for Premier Foods, who have operations within the catchment as well as it being a key sourcing region for them. Water pollution, high water demand and climate-driven floods and drought are all taking their toll on the Rivers of the Southwest, which are vital for farming, ecosystems and communities. By signing up as the first funding partner of the CAP, Premier Foods has committed to work with others to restore the Rivers of the Southwest back to health and build regional resilience.

Emerging Regional Initiatives

The opportunities within collective action projects are growing extensively and are likely to become a key enabling tool for a step level change of investment into nature. There are also emerging regional initiatives like [Midlands Nature](#), [Nature North](#), and [Natural Capital East](#), which now cover most of England, with initiatives also in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is important for businesses to research regional opportunities local to them as a key part in developing their own planned action.

7.3 Credits and Offsets

Investing into the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services can also generate tradeable units and certificates. It is a new and evolving pathway for supporting large-scale environmental improvements in farming.

Purchasing Credits

Nature credits are verified units representing a measurable improvement in biodiversity or ecosystem services. These credits are typically generated when a landholder undertakes a nature-based project that delivers environmental benefits above a defined baseline. Credits may be sold to external buyers or retained by those funding the intervention.

As credits can be bought or sold across disparate landscapes, there is a risk that environmental gains are not realised where the actual impacts occur. A high-integrity market rule therefore requires that every credit's origin (and its corresponding improvement) is clearly mapped to a single, defined landscape unit (such as a single catchment or Local Planning Authority region, rather than treated as a generic commodity), with no trading beyond that boundary.

This will help avoid the risk of 'value being taken out of the agriculture value chain unconnected with the food system' ([FDE, 2023](#)) that may come with other stakeholders in other industrial sectors purchasing credits and offsets. FDF and stakeholders are advocating to avoid the technical complexity of market design in offsets and credits, so to ensure that market access for farmer produce is not restricted ([WWF, 2024](#)) by the sale of offsets and credits outside of the farm to fork supply chain.

What is offsetting?

Offsetting refers to the practice of compensating for a business's residual environmental impacts by purchasing nature credits from other markets. This is most often used in relation to biodiversity or carbon, for example a company unable to eliminate all on-farm impacts might purchase biodiversity units from a project restoring habitats in another location.

While offsetting has a role, particularly where harm cannot be avoided or reduced, the mitigation hierarchy is clear: businesses should first avoid and minimise their impacts, restore what can be repaired, and only then consider offsetting as a last resort. Poorly governed offsetting mechanisms can lead to accusations of "greenwashing," especially where claims of environmental benefit are overstated or duplicated and thus may carry reputational and operational risk.

8. International Supply Chains

Whilst this Handbook focuses on opportunities within the United Kingdom, the need for action abroad and to support a [Just Transition](#) is also essential. By making agricultural systems more sustainable and thereby reducing and managing the impacts from flooding, drought and extreme heat, not only will this make food production more resilient, it will also improve worker livelihoods and communities.

Businesses are already familiar with the use of deforestation and conversion free certifications to evidence that their supply chains are more environmentally sustainable and equitable for growers. Certifications can therefore be a key tool to demonstrating progress, as getting close to growers when purchasing on a global market can be very difficult. In these circumstances, the advice is to have conversations with your supplier or processor, the people that are in the supply chain that can help connect the dots with the growers, and discuss with your requirements, where growers are at currently, and what support they may need to help bridge the gap between the two.

The reality is that engaging with growers internationally can be much more difficult than anticipated, so the use of certifications and providing support to bodies such as the [Rainforest Alliance](#) and [Fairtrade](#), can prove the best way to make progress. For the ingredients and products sourced, the advice is to learn what certifications may be available both for commodity type and location. It may also be useful to look at what certifications or NGOs that other manufacturers may be working with given that growers may supply a number of businesses, rather than just one. To support the rollout abroad, just as we are in the UK, a harmonisation of approaches will be helpful both to growers and other stakeholders across the supply chain.

Accountability Framework Initiative

Particularly for agriculture and forestry supply chains and for commodities such as beef, cocoa, palm and soy, applying the AFI principles can help businesses structure how they can reduce their environmental impact. The AFI involves setting goals, establishing systems to manage implementation, collaborating across supply chains, monitoring and verifying progress, and reporting.

The AFI is therefore not a certification scheme or compliance standard, but in effect a set of principles companies can apply to set, implement and monitor their supply chain goals.

The AFI's primary goal is to ensure production, trade, and sourcing of agricultural products do not contribute to deforestation or human rights abuses, and that production upholds land rights and conserves ecosystems.

The AFI framework is based on [12 key principles](#) covering goals, systems, production and more. The principles with a nature focus include:

- Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems
- Supply chain assessment and traceability
- Site management and long-term protection
- Collaboration for landscape and sectoral sustainability
- Reporting, disclosures, and claims

Collective Action Projects – Southern Spain

Southern Spain is facing escalating water stress due to climate change, intensive agriculture, and unsustainable water use. The UK Food and Drink Pact's Water Roadmap, led by WRAP in collaboration with local and international partners, and alongside our Delivery Partner Good Stuff International, is tackling these issues through collective action in two priority areas: Doñana and Mar Menor.

In Doñana, one of Europe's key wetlands and a vital soft fruit region, illegal water abstraction and poor governance have drastically reduced wetland coverage. WRAP is working with businesses to ensure water legality in supply chains, launching a public catchment data portal, and uniting stakeholders to drive reform.

In Mar Menor, Europe's largest saltwater lagoon, nutrient pollution has triggered three ecological collapses since 2016. WRAP's response includes linking supply chain incentives to better farm practices (including government funds) and promoting collaborative water governance.

These efforts are supported by:

- Improving understanding of water risks through workshops and webinars
- Supporting on-the-ground action to improve water quality in priority areas
- Strengthening standards by advocating for water stewardship in farm assurance schemes
- Driving policy change by challenging illegal water use, e.g., with WWF

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how UK supply chain actors, Spanish producers, and environmental experts can collaborate to restore vital ecosystems.

Case study: Restoring La Cañada

Close to El Rocio, driving through woods to reach Doñana National Park, we encountered what looked like a sea of plastic - polytunnels stretching ahead, all growing strawberries, their sweet smell filling the air. Just 50m away lay la Cañada, a slice of green amongst the agricultural activity.

This UNESCO World Heritage site produces 98% of Spain's soft fruit and 30% of Europe's strawberries but faces collapse. An estimated 16% of berries use illegal water sources. The result is grim: in 2024, only 2% of wetlands remain covered in water. It should be 80%.

WRAP's Water Roadmap addresses this crisis through two Collective Action Projects - in Doñana and Mar Menor - focusing on water risk understanding, on-the-ground action, strengthening standards, and driving policy change.

The La Cañada restoration represents tangible progress. Rather than bulldozing the degraded stream, we worked with local irrigation community CR Condado to re-naturalize it sensitively. The excitement was palpable when 60 schoolchildren joined restoration efforts, enthusiastically planting trees along the riverbank.

There was so much excitement in the air. These children will be the next generation of farmers in this critical ecosystem. Together, we created a powerful moment of shared learning - planting seeds of change as part of our collective plan through 2030.



La Cañada restoration project: Photo courtesy of Good Stuff International

9. Target Setting & Reporting

Investing in nature must deliver real and additional environmental improvements. When setting targets and reporting on progress, food and drink businesses should ensure any credit or offset schemes, align with transparent, independently reviewed methodologies and credible assurance frameworks. This will ensure that environmental outcomes and claims are real, additional and enduring to avoid reputational risk, and ensure that money invested translates into genuine improvements in biodiversity and ecosystem services. This will help scale investment in the very landscapes that sustain agricultural production and avoid the failings of early voluntary carbon markets.

The [UK Nature Markets Dialogue](#) led by the Broadway Initiative, drawing on input from over 160 organisations across business, finance, farming, NGOs and government, has developed a proposed governance framework to ensure the delivery of real, additional and verifiable environmental outcomes.

The framework proposes four key principles:

Robust science-based methodologies: 'Project integrity' can be gained from using methodologies that have been rigorously reviewed for scientific, economic and legal soundness. Project integrity requires that metrics are applied consistently by appropriately trained practitioners and verified by third parties. In other words, any land-based activity must demonstrate that it goes beyond "business as usual" and genuinely delivers measurable gains in nature that would not otherwise have occurred.

Check that the scheme uses an independently approved methodology, preferably one that has undergone scrutiny by a recognised technical advisory body and is explicitly referenced by the BSI Flex 700 series for biodiversity crediting.

Additionality, permanence and stacking: Investing in insets, credits and offsets must create additional benefits over and above regulatory or baseline requirements, be permanent (secured for a long-term period, with clear mechanisms for ongoing management), and uniquely accounted (no duplication or double counting).

Proper handling of stacking (combining the ecosystem benefits and outcomes from a single project) is crucial. While stacking can increase efficiency and encourage multifunctional land management, it must not lead to inflated claims.

Credits must be geographically ring-fenced: fungible trading is only permissible within a single defined landscape e.g. a river catchment. Any broader or cross-boundary trading undermines the principle of additionality in the place where impact occurs.

Operational integrity: Market intermediaries (developers, verifiers, registries and brokers) must operate under governance rules that eliminate conflicts of interest. A key principle is that intermediaries should be paid fees for services rendered, rather than receiving a share of credit revenues, so that they have no incentive to inflate credit volumes or compromise quality.

Check whether intermediaries are audited by a UKAS-accredited conformity assessment body and whether their remuneration model separates technical verification fees from credit price or sale proceeds.

Transparency: If investing in nature, food and drink manufacturers must be able to trace how credits or insets are used. Any claims about “nature-positive” sourcing must align with a clear chain of custody, prevented from double counting, and supported by independent reporting.

Where credits or other units are purchased, companies must check with the registry or platform they are bought from, that there is a ledger which shows who purchased which credits or inseting units, for what purpose, and how they are retired, so you can make verifiable claims without risk of overlap.

10. Financing

Achieving a nature-positive food system by 2030 will require a significant increase in investment across the supply chain. While government funding and philanthropic capital play a role, the scale of the challenge means that private sector finance—particularly from food and drink manufacturers and retailers — must be mobilised to bridge the UK’s estimated [£44bn gap](#) in funding over the next decade.

This chapter outlines how manufacturers can unlock and deploy finance to support nature restoration, regenerative agriculture, and supply chain resilience. It also explores emerging financial models, partnerships, and tools that can help businesses of all sizes – especially SMEs – take action.

Why Finance Matters

Nature restoration and regenerative practices often require upfront investment with long-term payback periods. Farmers may face reduced yields during transition periods, while manufacturers may need to invest in traceability, certification, or supplier engagement. Financing in some circumstances can be helpful to:

- De-risk early action and support farmers through transition periods
- Support initial investments farmers need to transition to new approaches
- Scale proven models of regenerative agriculture and habitat restoration
- Enable collective action across landscapes and supply chains
- Demonstrate leadership and secure long-term supply chain resilience

Financing Pathways

There are several routes through which manufacturers can finance nature-positive outcomes:

Direct Investment in Supply Chains

Manufacturers can provide direct financial support to farmers and suppliers through:

- Long-term contracts with price premiums for sustainable practices

- Co-investment in equipment or inputs (e.g. cover crops, no-till drills)
- Advance payments or bridging finance to support transition to regenerative practices
- Via impact funds such as covered under 7.1

This approach builds trust and resilience within the supply chain and can be aligned with procurement strategies (see Chapter 6).

Insetting and Nature-Based Projects

Insetting refers to investing in environmental improvements within a company's own value chain as covered under sections 7.1 and 7.2. This can include:

- Soil carbon enhancement
- Hedgerow planting
- Pollinator habitat creation
- Water quality improvements

These projects can be financed internally or via third-party platforms (e.g. Soil Association Exchange, LENS) and offer measurable, reportable outcomes aligned with TNFD and SBTN frameworks.

Ensuring Integrity and Impact

To ensure that finance delivers real, additional and enduring outcomes:

- Use independently verified methodologies
- Ensure transparency and traceability of investments and claims
- Avoid double counting or over-claiming benefits
- Prioritise insetting and local impact before considering offsets

Blended Finance and Partnerships

Manufacturers should also consider joining industry-wide initiatives to shape emerging standards and ensure that nature finance markets work for the food sector.

In this context, blended finance combines public, private, and philanthropic capital to de-risk investment and scale impact. Manufacturers can:

- Join landscape-scale partnerships (e.g. WRAP CAPs, Projects for Nature)
- Co-invest with water companies, NGOs, or local authorities
- Leverage government schemes (e.g. Environmental Land Management schemes) as match funding
- Set up programs with banks or insurers with mutual interest in supporting farmers in the manufacturer's supply chain to offer improved financial offerings

This approach is particularly valuable for SMEs or those sourcing from commoditised supply chains.

Role of Banks and Discounted Finance

Banks and financial institutions are increasingly recognising the importance of nature and climate in their lending decisions. As part of their own ESG commitments and regulatory obligations (e.g. under TCFD and TNFD), many are beginning to offer discounted finance or preferential loan terms for nature-positive investments. Bringing together banks and manufacturers can unlock valuable synergies both in terms of mutual interest and unique insights into the challenges faced by farmers transitioning to more sustainable approaches.

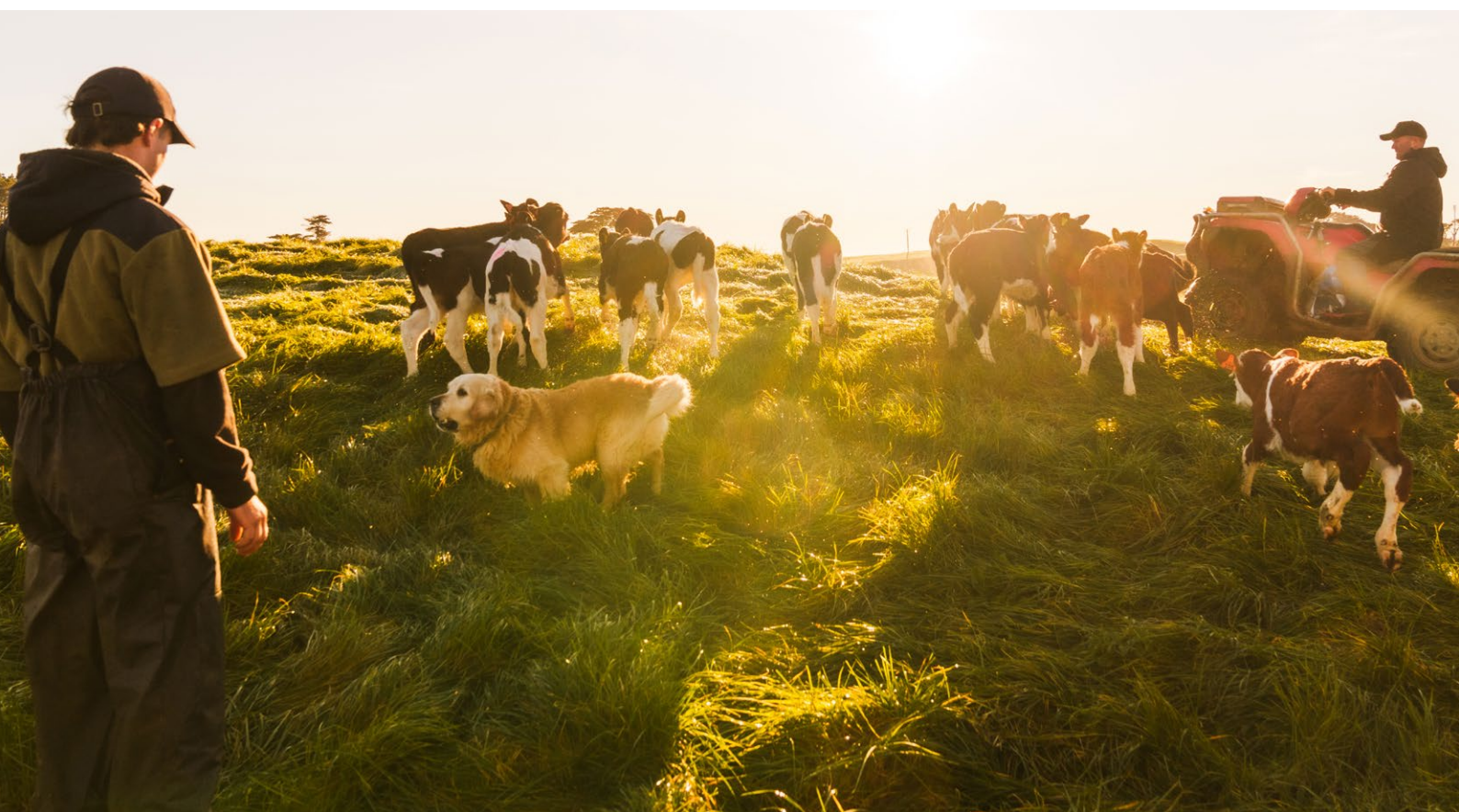
Examples of Supportive Financial Instruments

- **Green Loans and Sustainability-Linked Loans:** These offer reduced interest rates or improved terms if borrowers meet specific environmental performance indicators—such as biodiversity improvements, soil health metrics, or regenerative agriculture adoption.
- **Guarantees and Risk-Sharing Mechanisms:** Manufacturers can leverage their stronger credit profile to support suppliers and farmers transitioning to more sustainable approaches with improved working capital rates without extending direct grant payments as demonstrated by HSBC and Walmart. Similarly manufacturers should encourage their banking partners to work with government or philanthropic bodies to offer partial guarantees or blended finance structures that reduce the risk for manufacturers investing in nature.

- **Technical Assistance:** In some cases, banks provide advisory support alongside loans to help businesses design and implement high-integrity nature projects.
- **Transition Warranties:** Warranty plans to insure farmers transitioning to more sustainable approaches allows farmers to transition to new approaches without worrying about real / perceived risk. Offering or subsidizing these plans can help accelerate supply chain transitions.

How Manufacturers Can Engage

- **Speak with Relationship Managers:** Ask your bank whether they offer green or nature-linked finance products and how these could apply to your supply chain investments. As financial institutions increasingly integrate nature into their risk models and lending criteria.
- **Join cross value chain initiatives** that bring together banks and manufacturers to identify and jointly address overlapping sustainability challenges.
- Some manufacturers have also created partnerships with their banks to offer bespoke financial terms to farmers to help in their RegenAg transition.
- [One such example](#) is NatWest offering additional financial support to McCain potato farmers, whilst McCain pays a contribution towards the interest payable for assets that support regenerative agriculture practices.



Annex I: TCFD Briefing Paper

Disclosing corporate climate risks through governance, strategy and metrics



The Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) is a framework developed to help public companies and other organisations disclose climate-related risks and opportunities.

The TCFD framework is underpinned by four core pillars: governance, strategy, risk management and metrics and targets. The primary goal of the TCFD is to enable stakeholders to better understand the exposure of organisations and assets to climate-related risks. Partnership Organisations: ISSB

Scope and Coverage

The TCFD covers climate-related financial disclosures, focusing on the organisation's governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets related to climate change. It was developed as a set of recommended disclosures for companies across these areas, with the intention that broad disclosure of climate-related financial risks supports more informed investment decisions and facilitates the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy.

Process

The TCFD framework's recommended disclosures fall under four core principles, which together provide a holistic view of how a company approaches climate change, in total there are 11 core disclosures:

1. **Governance:** The company must disclose its board's oversight of, and management's role in, assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities.
2. **Strategy:** The company must disclose its climate-related risks and opportunities (near, medium and long-term), and the potential impacts they have on its businesses, strategies, financial planning and corporate governance. The company must also describe its resilience in the face of different climate scenarios, e.g., a 2°C or lower climate scenario analysis.
3. **Risk management:** The company must disclose its processes for identifying, assessing and managing climate-related risks, and how these processes are integrated into its overall risk management processes and strategy.

- 4. Metrics and targets:** The company must disclose the metrics and targets it uses to measure success in countering climate-related risks and seizing climate-related opportunities. The company must also disclose its transition plan including actions and activities that would enable net-zero emissions by 2050. This includes the disclosure of metrics and targets relative to Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions.

To help achieve high-quality disclosures that enable users to understand the impact of climate change on organizations, the Task Force recommends that firms consider seven principles for effective disclosure, [available here](#).

As part of these disclosures, the TCFD recommends that companies conduct climate-related scenario analysis to support them in assessing their resilience to different climate-related risks and opportunities. The TCFD provides resources and learning courses to help organisations implement these recommendations.

Definitions

The TCFD has developed a taxonomy of climate risks and opportunities to facilitate mutual understanding.

Climate-related risks are categorised into two types:

- Transition risks, associated with the shift towards a low carbon economy, encompassing policy, legal, technological, and market changes.
- Physical risks, directly resulting from climate change, such as severe weather events, rising sea levels, and higher seasonal temperatures.

Climate-related opportunities include:

- Resource efficiency initiatives
- Transition to low-emission energy sources
- Development and distribution of climate-friendly products and services

Implementing the standard

To align with the TCFD's recommendations, companies should begin by identifying and assessing their climate-related risks and opportunities; developing a strategy that takes into account these risks and opportunities, including setting targets for reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, etc; and report on these risks and opportunities in their annual reports. For a full list of actions companies can take companies should consult the [TCFD's implementation guidance](#).

Food Industry Engagement

Adopting the TCFD framework allows food companies to better understand and disclose their climate-related risks and opportunities, which can help them make more informed strategic decisions, manage risks more effectively, and attract investors who support proactive climate strategies.

As food and agriculture companies are uniquely exposed to the impacts of climate change, for businesses operating in this sector understanding their climate risks and opportunities in depth and developing a strategy to respond to these is of critical importance. Furthermore, as these companies are higher climate risk supply chains, it is expected that their customers will ask for climate risk information ahead of other sectors.

The TCFD began as a voluntary set of recommendations but has become part of the regulatory framework in many jurisdictions, including the European Union, Singapore, Canada, Japan and South Africa. In the UK premium listed companies are required to make disclosures in line with TCFD on a comply or explain basis. UK Public Interest Entities (PIEs) and Alternative Investment Market (AIM) listed companies with over 500 employees, as well as UK private companies and LLPs with over £500m in turnover and 500 employees (including subsidiaries) also have to apply UK rules on climate-related financial disclosure which are aligned with TCFD guidelines.

The TCFD has published supplementary guidance for organisations working in Agriculture, Food, and Forest Products industries, specifically under the Strategy and Metrics and Targets recommendations.

Participation information

The TCFDs resources are open-source.

References

[TCFD: Knowledge Hub](#)

[TCFD: Core Recommendations](#)

[TCFD: Introduction to the recommendations](#)

[TCFD: Case Studies](#)

[TCFD: Implementation guidance](#)

[TCFDs: FAQs](#)

Annex II: TNFD Briefing Paper

Framework for reporting nature-related financial risks and opportunities



The TNFD has developed a set of disclosure recommendations and guidance for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities, with the aim of supporting a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes. The TNFD is shaped by a diverse group of stakeholders, including financial institutions, companies, governments, and NGOs. The TNFD has a long list of knowledge partners.

Scope and Coverage

The Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is a global initiative aimed at providing a framework for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks. The TNFD aims to equip companies and investors with the information they need to support the global response to biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and the associated financial risks.

The framework is designed for use regardless of jurisdiction and encourages companies and financial organisations to act by reporting on nature-related dependencies, impacts risks and opportunities. The TNFD adapts and extends the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)'s method of integrating climate data into financial reporting.

Process

Businesses adhering to the TNFD disclosure framework are recommended to follow a process that includes identifying and assessing nature-related risks and opportunities, integrating these considerations into financial planning and reporting, and enhancing nature-positive outcomes through strategic decisions. The approach involves conducting scenario analyses, setting targets, measuring progress, and publicly disclosing nature-related financial impacts. The framework provides guidance, tools, and metrics to support companies in these efforts.

Recommendations

The recommended disclosures (there are 14 in total) are structured around four pillars:

1. **Governance:** The governance processes, controls and procedures the organisation uses to monitor and manage nature-related issues
2. **Strategy:** The approach the organisation uses to manage nature-related issues
3. **Risk and impact management:** The processes the organisation uses to identify, assess, prioritise and monitor nature-related issues
4. **Metrics and targets:** The organisation's performance in relation to nature-related issues, including progress towards any targets the organisation has set or is required to meet by law or regulation

The recommendations also include six general requirements that apply across all four pillars:

- The application of materiality
- The scope of disclosures
- The location of nature-related issues
- Integration with other sustainability-related disclosures
- The time horizons considered
- The engagement of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and affected stakeholders in the identification and assessment of the organisation's nature-related issues

The LEAP Approach

Alongside the Recommendations, the TNFD have prepared guidance to help organisations identify and assess nature-related issues and inform disclosure. The LEAP process introduces a practical 'step-by-step' nature-related risk and opportunity assessment process. The LEAP guidance isn't a disclosure recommendation or mandated process, it is voluntary guidance designed to help organisations on a practical level as they begin to evaluate their nature-based risks and opportunities and to fulfil the disclosure requirements.

The LEAP Process has four main components:

- Locate your interface with nature
- Evaluate your dependencies and impacts on nature
- Assess your nature-related risks and opportunities
- Prepare to respond to nature-related risks and opportunities and to report on your material nature-related issues.

Food Industry Engagement

The framework is designed for use across sectors, by companies and financial bodies of different sizes, and in any country across the world.

By identifying and assessing nature-related risks, companies can develop strategies to mitigate these risks, protecting their assets and promoting long-term sustainability. Although the framework is voluntary, it's likely that its recommendations will be adopted by regulators across a growing number of countries, as with the TCFD Framework. A number of food retailers and food manufacturers are already TNFD early adopters.

Food and agriculture companies are uniquely exposed to the impacts of climate change and food production has a significant nature impact. For businesses operating in this sector understanding nature risks and opportunities in depth and developing a strategy to respond to these is of critical importance. As companies are in higher nature risk supply chains, it is expected that customers will ask for nature risk information ahead of other sectors.

Participation information

There are no fees to access the TNFD's resources, however fulfilling the disclosure requirements will require significant internal resources.

To get involved organisations should explore the 'Getting Started' resources [available here](#).

References

[TNFD: Homepage](#)

[TNFD: Recommendations](#)

[TNFD: Knowledge Partners](#)

[TNFD: LEAP Approach](#)

Annex III: SBTN Briefing Paper

Guidelines for setting science-based nature targets by businesses.



SBTN defines and promotes best practice in science-based target setting for reducing impacts on nature. Offering a range of target-setting resources and guidance, SBTN independently assesses and approves companies' targets in line with its strict criteria. Topics include freshwater, land, marine and biodiversity.

The SBTN works with a wide range of partners listed on their website. Partners span academia, NGOs, foundations, coalitions and standard setters.

Scope and Coverage

The Science Based Targets Network aims to transform economic systems and protect the global commons through setting science-based targets (SBTs) for nature; specifically, across freshwater, land, biodiversity, ocean and climate.

SBTs are defined as measurable, actionable, and time-bound objectives, based on the best available science, that allow actors to align with Earth's limits and societal sustainability goals.

The SBTi, which defines climate change mitigation, and SBTN are separate organisations, although both advocate for corporate targets grounded in science. However, there are overlaps in target setting: all companies with material contributions to greenhouse gasses are expected to set a climate target via SBTi as part of their science-based target for nature.

The SBTN is aligned to related frameworks including mandatory reporting requirements such as EU's CSRD and voluntary disclosure recommendations through the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD).

Process

To set a science-based target for nature companies are expected to:

- 1. Assess:** Gather and/or supplement existing data to estimate value chain-wide impacts and dependencies on nature, resulting in a list of potential 'issue areas' and value chain locations for target setting.

2. Interpret & Prioritise: Interpret the outputs of Step 1, prioritising key issues and locations to take action. Consider actions across different 'spheres of influence'—from operations, to the landscapes surrounding value chain(s).

3. Measure, Set & Disclose: Collect baseline data for prioritised targets and locations. Using the data from this and previous steps, set targets aligned with Earth's limits and societal sustainability goals and then disclose these publicly.

4. Act: Utilise SBTN's Action Framework (AR3T): Avoid, Reduce, Regenerate, Restore, and Transform) to make a plan and begin to address contributions toward the unsustainable use and loss of nature-key impacts.

5. Track: Monitor progress toward targets, and report publicly on this progress, and adapt approach as necessary.

The SBTN have released technical guidance to assess and prioritise their impacts for all topics; it has released target setting guidance on freshwater and land. Detailed guidance on setting targets for ocean and biodiversity, as well as detailed guidance on target implementation (Step 4: Act) and tracking (Step 5: Track) will be released at a later date.

Food Industry Engagement

Environmental impacts go far beyond climate change, and companies are increasingly expected to report and act on a broad range of nature-related risks. Managing and mitigating nature-related impacts will require businesses to take a holistic and integrated approach that considers all of Earth's systems.

Few companies understand their true impact on nature, leaving themselves exposed to a variety of risks. By setting SBTs companies can align their actions to both the scientific boundaries that define a safe operating space for humanity in terms of Earth's limits and the societal sustainability goals that set out global objectives for equitable human development. The science-based targets for nature help companies contribute to global sustainability goals while potentially benefiting their operational, financial, and market performance.

Although much of the guidance is still in drafting, companies are piloting the first SBTs for nature. The SBTN advises that companies start to understand their environmental impacts through materiality screening. Companies can also join the SBTNs [Corporate Engagement Program](#). Of the 17 companies piloting the validation process, many are large food and beverage companies.

The global food system is the number one cause of biodiversity loss and responsible for around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. For companies operating in the food and drink sector setting SBTs for nature will be an important means of understanding and mitigating their nature related impacts. The goals of the SBTN align with nature restoration commitments set out by the FDF.

Participation information

The SBTN is currently piloting the validation process with an initial group of companies. A full roll-out to companies is anticipated in early 2024. There is no cost information at this time, however setting an SBTN will require a significant amount of internal resource.

SBTN tools and guidelines will be freely accessible for companies setting targets. Companies and consultants assisting companies may use tools that require subscriptions or other fees.

Companies looking to set SBTNs should understand the resources on 'Taking Action' [available here](#).

References

[SBTN: Our mission](#)

[SBTN: Our partners](#)

[SBTN: Take action now](#)

[SBTN: Resources](#)

[SBTN: Corporate Engagement Program](#)

[SBTN: Food sector companies taking action](#)

[CDP: How to disclose as a company](#)

[CDP: Disclosures for SMEs](#)

fdf | AMBITION 2030

Ambition 2030 is the flagship strategy for food and drink manufacturing and sets out the sector's important role in tackling the impacts of climate change and how every business can make its contribution to sustainability.

Find out how we can support you across your sustainability journey.

[FDF.org.uk/ambition2030](https://fdf.org.uk/ambition2030)

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