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## Biodiversity Check for companies

### Why assess biodiversity?

Alongside climate change, the loss of biodiversity is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Many species and ecosystems that provide us with vital resources and services are at risk. Companies depend on ecosystem services and natural resources in a variety of ways as part of their business models, thereby also interfering in nature in a serious way.

A decline in biodiversity hence also represents a risk and is increasingly being addressed by legislation.

At the same time, proactive action on the topic of biodiversity can deliver new business opportunities.

In summary, it is important that companies recognize their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and know which measures they can implement to protect nature.

**Biodiversity measures on the company premises can be a first step into biodiversity management.**

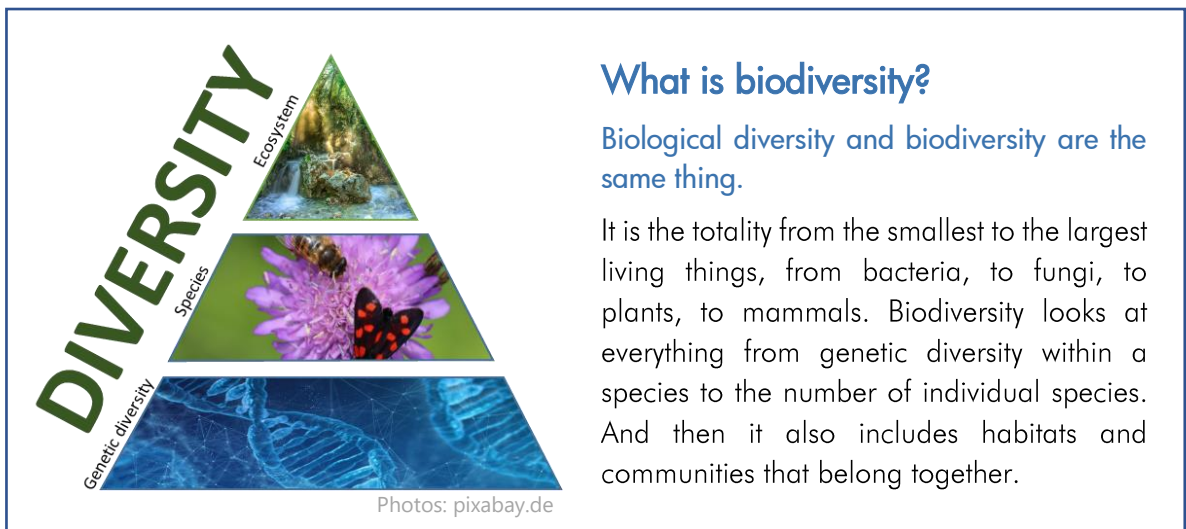
### What is the Biodiversity Check?

In 2010, the Biodiversity Check method was developed by Global Nature Fund, Lake Constance Foundation and others and has been implemented with more than one hundred companies since then.

The check serves as an initial orientation for assessing the biodiversity impacts of a company or individual corporate divisions. The check is based on the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the scientifically established knowledge on biodiversity management:

- Conservation of biodiversity
- Sustainable use of resources
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

The check consists of an **analysis** of the risks for and impacts on biodiversity, a **participatory process** with the company representatives and the development of **recommendations** for a Biodiversity Action Plan.



## What is biodiversity?

Biological diversity and biodiversity are the same thing.

It is the totality from the smallest to the largest living things, from bacteria, to fungi, to plants, to mammals. Biodiversity looks at everything from genetic diversity within a species to the number of individual species. And then it also includes habitats and communities that belong together.

## What is being assessed?

The check examines direct risks and impacts of the company on biodiversity. Likewise, it takes indirect impacts into account, which the company can influence through dialogue with its stakeholders.

### Areas that are to be covered:

1. Strategy and management
2. Stakeholders and the public
3. Company premises, real estate
4. Sourcing: especially resources and materials
5. Product development and production
6. Logistics and transport
7. End products and services
8. Sales and marketing
9. Human resources

## What information is used for the Biodiversity Check?

- Environmental, sustainability and CSR reports
- Company data on sourcing, supply chains and standards
- Information from suppliers
- Interviews / roundtable with company managers and heads of departments
- Local NGOs providing information on locations, supply production facilities and mining areas
- Open source databases such as WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter, ENCORE etc.
- Studies and research results on sector-specific influences on biodiversity

We also take into account legal requirements at national and European level as well as recognized standards, e.g.:

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)/ESRS E4, Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), GRI Guidelines, ISO 14001

Supply chains tend to have the largest negative impact on biodiversity. The first step for the company is to know the supply chains and the associated risks. Then, targeted measures can be adopted –as here in coffee cultivation.



## Which results does the Biodiversity Check offer?

Companies receive a report with the results of the analysis and proposals for an action plan:

- Initial analysis on biodiversity and ecosystems, tailored to the company and its divisions (as input to the materiality analysis)
- Proposals for targets and measures to reduce risks and negative impacts
- Proposals for targets and measures to protect biodiversity
- Contents and recommendations for reporting
- Recommendations for further steps, including involvement of relevant stakeholders
- Raising awareness of the issue within the business units



With the results of the Biodiversity Check, the company can initiate targeted measures to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems - or avoid them in the first place. At last, this is not only beneficial for nature, but also for the company. Risk reduction, long-term securing of raw materials, reputational gains, cost reduction and employee motivation have a positive impact. In addition, the Check pays off in terms of due diligence and legal requirements.

**Biodiversity protection should also be directly considered in product development.**

## Biodiversity Check process:



## How does the check work?

- Determining the scope and limitations of the analysis with the company
- Data collection, using an (industry-specific) biodiversity matrix
- Meeting with company representatives to complement the collection of facts, discussion of initial results and options
- Preparation of a preliminary report, coordination with the company
- Preparation of a proposal for a Biodiversity Action Plan
- Completion of the final report and presentation of results, including the Biodiversity Action Plan

### IMPRESSUM

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