bcsdh
Magyarországi Üzleti Tanács a Fenntartható Fejlődésért
Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary

TIME TO TRANSFORM

About the BCSDH

The Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary (BCSDH) is the national partner organization of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The organization is a **community of forward-thinking business leaders of companies**. The BCSDH's aim is to mobilize the business sector to create an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable future, for which we seek to **identify constructive business solutions, and to encourage collaborative action.**

137
companies

40% of
Hungarian GDP

Member of the
WBCSD Global
Network

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Time to Transform 2030:
a tight timeframe for the fundamental and immediate transformation of our systems, with companies playing a leading role.

Members of the Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary Status – September 1, 2023

How does biodiversity find its place in a business plan? *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

In December 2022, a landmark agreement was reached at the **United Nations Biodiversity Summit** in Montreal (COP15), where **ministers and government officials from 190 countries overwhelmingly acknowledged that the protection of biological diversity must take precedence**.

Life is intertwined with nature, and **so is business. Nearly half of global GDP directly relies on nature** and its services. The significance of nature is underscored by the fact that the **estimated annual value of ecosystem services is one and a half times that of global GDP**.

The **risks** associated with **biodiversity resemble** those of **climate change**. Both have **far-reaching consequences** in terms of scale and magnitude, and they **can reach a point at which recovery becomes impossible**.

Net-zero goals cannot be achieved without a healthy environment. To **avoid the most severe impacts of climate change** and build resilience against inevitable consequences, **we must halt biodiversity loss before 2030**.

Biodiversity has swiftly emerged as the fastest-growing ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) topic in global capital markets. Companies are increasingly **recognising business risk** and the need to address this issue.

The time for action is undoubtedly now. Within **our Time to Transform framework** this year, after the **inspiring presentations** by **Diane Holdorf**, Vice President of WBCSD, and **Katalin Sipos**, Director of WWF Hungary, we collaborated with over 60 corporate leaders and invited experts on the topic of biodiversity to **formulate the following three recommendations** that can assist the business sphere in taking the necessary steps:

1. Conduct organisational impact assessments and set goals for preserving and restoring natural and biological diversity.

2. Identify relevant areas and implement strategic initiatives that incorporate natural diversity into decision-making processes.

3. Adopt and apply a holistic approach and mindset throughout the value chain, fostering partnerships and collaboration.

Biodiversity supports adaptivity, which is essential not only in relation to dealing with climate change. The more diverse and varied a system – including a business system – the **more resilient** it becomes to external influence, increasing its chances of survival and adaptation.

With over 130 member companies, BCSDH believes that fundamental and immediate transformation of current systems is imperative, with business playing a pivotal role. Numerous viable business solutions already exist that are associated with sustaining biological diversity.

Is there a better time to turn theory into action?

Attila Chikán Jr. President
BCSDH

Irén Márta Managing Director
BCSDH

Time to Transform 2030: Action for biodiversity and beyond

The world's most pressing challenges include **climate emergency, rapid biodiversity loss**, dramatically growing **social inequality**, and the focus on assessing corporate performance from an **economic perspective only**. **We are running out of time**, and these four areas require **immediate measures, action**, and **systemic change** alongside **commitment at the highest level**.

Most pressing challenges

Climate emergency

Already a 1.1°C rise in temperature (we may reach 1.5°C rise by 2030).

Rapid biodiversity loss

68% of wildlife already lost, one million species expected to become extinct by 2050.

Growing inequality

the richest 1.2% own half of global wealth. The poorest 53% own 1.1% only.

Corporate performance assessed only on economic outcomes

Simplified traditional finance and economic theory does not reflect or respond to the complex challenges of our time.

The **Time to Transform 2030** program aims to achieve real systemic transformation **through concrete activities** while supporting companies through **collaboration** in the very limited timeframe that is available.

2023: FOCUSING ON BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity and clean water and air are the **foundations of terrestrial life**. The greater the diversity that characterises a system or ecosystem, the healthier and more resilient it is to external threats. Preserving and enhancing biodiversity is a **priority for sustainable development** and a **prerequisite for the survival of wildlife and humanity**. **Biodiversity loss and climate change** are **closely interconnected**, and these elements cannot be separated, as they are in constant interaction.

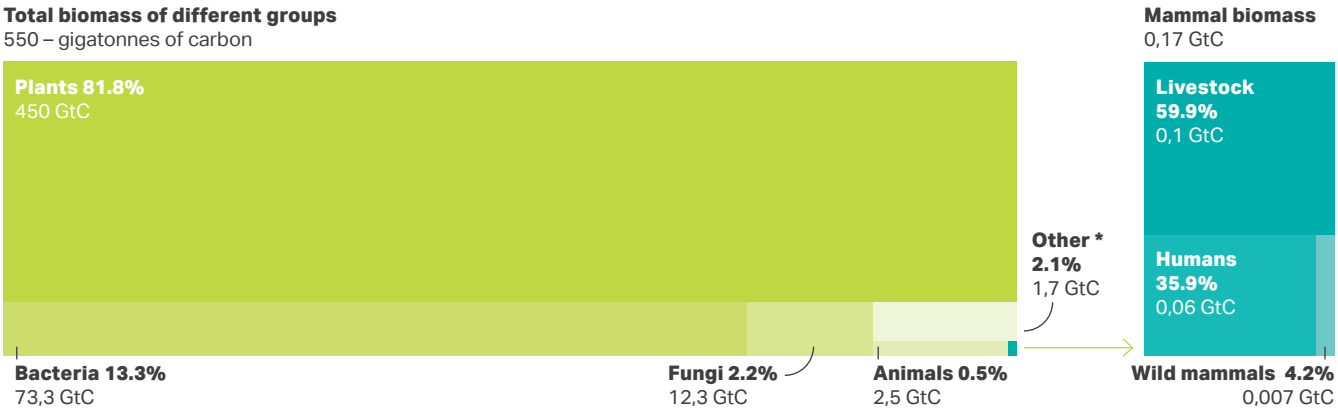
Moreover, **international actors** are placing significant emphasis on biodiversity: the **COP15 agreement** adopted in 2022 is often referred to as the "**Paris Agreement for Biodiversity**", and its implementation will shape the next decade.

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety and diversity of life forms found in nature. It includes the diversity of organisms among species, their ecological roles, and the diversity of habitats where they are found.
Despite significant technological development, humanity can only estimate the true extent of life on Earth. According to the most frequently cited data, there are 8.7 million species, but other estimates range between 5.3 million and one billion species.

Human dominance of the planet means that **domesticated animals and humans account for a much greater mass than wild animals**. **Plants are the most widespread** forms of biomass, accounting for **82% of the total**, at least according to an estimate from 2018. Among vertebrates, which comprise only a small proportion of total biomass, domesticated animals make up 60%, humans 36%, and **wild animals constitute only 4%**.

Distribution of biomass on Earth:



* Including archaea, protists and viruses

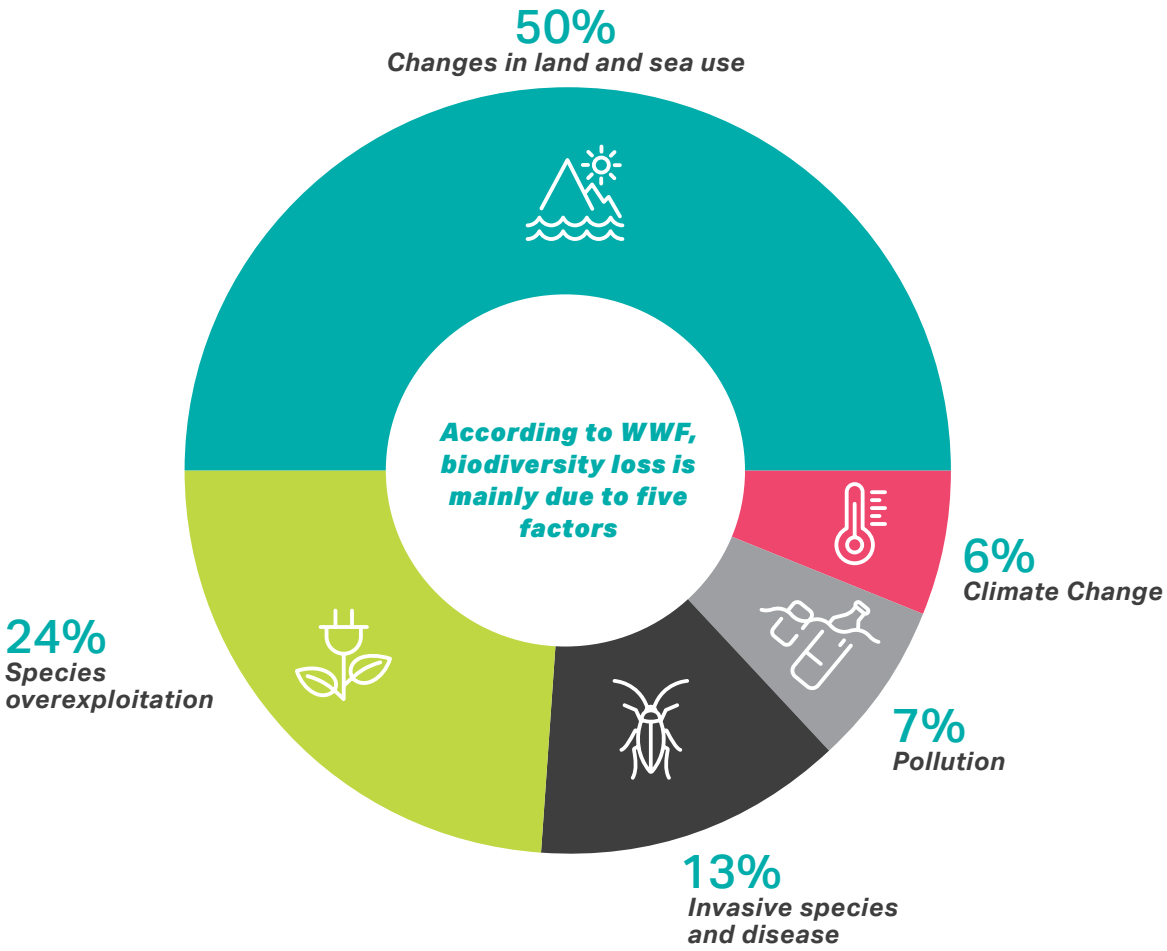
Source: Bar-On, Y.M. Philips, R.,& Milo, R. (2018)

WHY IS HEALTHY BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT TO US?

Biodiversity is crucial. It plays a massive role in maintaining the integrity of forests, grasslands, and marine ecosystems. **It has essential adaptation-related functions**, such as **protecting from the extremes of climate change, regulating the hydrological cycle, protecting soil, regulating urban temperatures**, improving **food security**, being the **foundation for a healthy life**, and providing **opportunities for economic diversification**, particularly when the impacts of climate change reduce agricultural yields. **All these functions are critical not only for the climate but for all life on Earth.**

WHO AND WHAT IS THREATENING BIODIVERSITY?

It can be reasonably asserted that **human behaviour is causing the decline of biodiversity**, as species extinction is now occurring as much as 1,000 times faster than before humans emerged (IPCC, 2022). In a **UN report** published in 2019, scientists warned that an estimated one million species are at risk of extinction, many within a few decades. Some scientists also believe we are now in the midst of the sixth mass extinction event in Earth's history, the largest ever.



Dramatic biodiversity loss has become a business risk

The annual estimated value of ecosystem services (USD 125-140 billion) is one and a half times that of global GDP
(IPBES Report, 2019)

Terrestrial and marine ecosystems, which provide a habitat for the vast majority of the world's species, absorb over 50 per cent of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions.
(UNCC, 2022)

Nearly half of global GDP (approximately 40 trillion euros) depends on the natural environment and resources.
(WEF, 2020)

A quarter of companies listed on the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 100 index have already conducted biodiversity audits.
(FTSE 100 Biodiversity report card, 2021)

While **climate change was previously regarded as an environmental externality**, over the past decade, it has evolved into an environmental risk and is **now considered a financial risk**. In its 2023 report on global risks, the **World Economic Forum (WEF) highlights the dominance of environmental risks** in its long-term prognosis.

The decline of biodiversity and ecosystem collapse is considered one of the fastest-growing global risks of the next decade, and all six environmental risks are featured among the top ten most important risks over the next ten years.

Global risks ranked by severity in the short and long term

2 years	10 years
1 Cost of living crisis	1 Failure to mitigate climate change
2 Natural disasters and extreme weather events	2 Failure of climate-change adaption
3 Geoeconomic confrontation	3 Natural disasters and extreme weather events
4 Failure to mitigate climate change	4 Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
5 Erosion of social cohesion and societal polarization	5 Large-scale involuntary migration

Societal Environmental Geopolitical

Source: Global Risk Report, 2023

The construction industry and building material production have significant impacts on natural habitats. *Therefore, we strive to* ***eliminate or, if not possible, minimize the negative effects****. For instance, during our projects, we pay* ***special attention to waste reduction****. Additionally, on a voluntary basis,* ***we plant double the amount of trees requested by the client*** *at the project location or in a third location.*

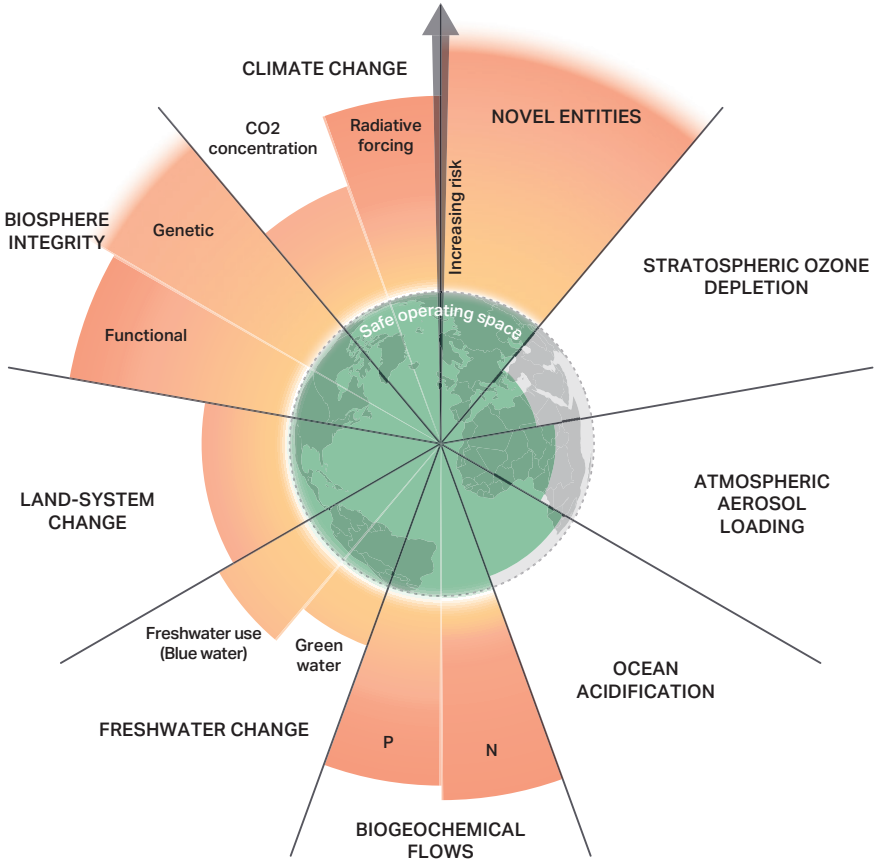
Sándor Scheer, *CEO, Market Építő Zrt.*

If we fail to take action, there is no turning back

WE MAY FIND OURSELVES MOVING BEYOND THE SECURE CONFINES FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN ACTIVITY.

Risks to biodiversity share many commonalities with climate change. Both are of **significant magnitude in terms of scope and scale**, and they can reach a point of no return when restoration becomes impossible.

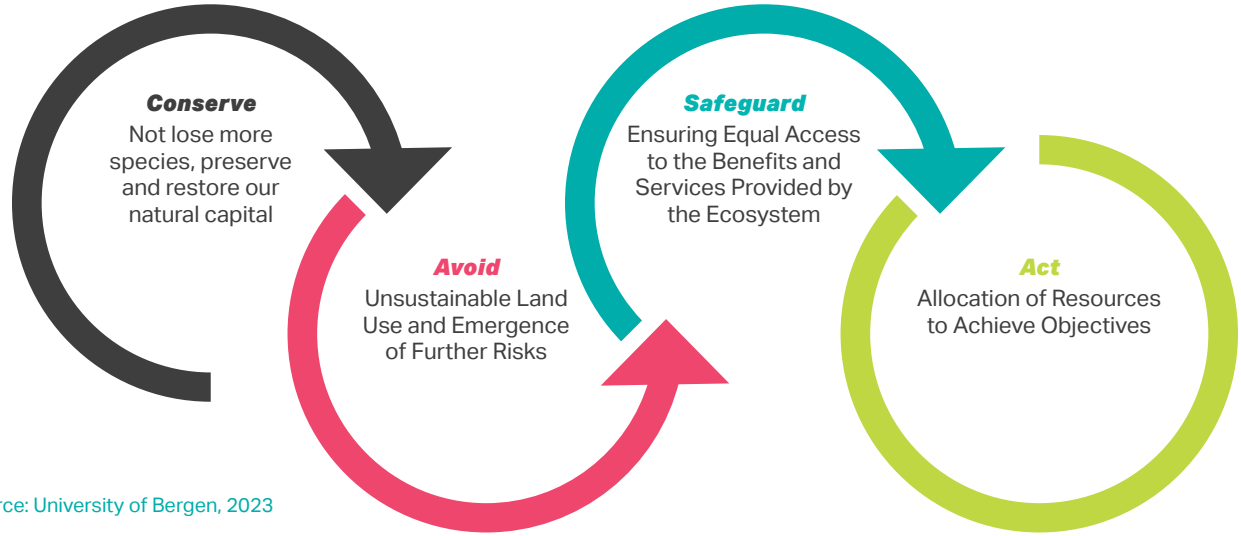
Research by the Stockholm Resilience Centre indicates that several **biophysical systems** that represent the boundaries to sustainable human activity **have already undergone shifts** indicating decline and are potentially approaching tipping points from which **recovery becomes challenging**. **We have already exceeded the limits** that define the boundaries of a secure existence for humanity in **multiple dimensions**.



Source: Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2023

COP15:
The "Paris Agreement" for biodiversity

It is promising that in December 2022, a groundbreaking agreement was reached at the UN Biodiversity Summit (COP15) in Montreal. Ministers and government officials from around **190 participating countries broadly acknowledged that the protection of biodiversity should be given top priority.**



Source: University of Bergen, 2023

The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** establishes four global objectives by 2050 and 23 targets by 2030. These include:

- Placing 30 per cent of the Earth's surface under some form of conservation protection,
- Restoring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems,
- Reducing the introduction of invasive species by half,
- Halving overconsumption, waste generation, and the use of hazardous pesticides,
- Cutting down nature-harmful subsidies by $500 billion.

For our company waste is not a final product but a raw material. We believe in circular, sustainable solutions *that can help protect nature. As a new investment, we are planning* ***a zero-emission office building and 40% green area*** *at our new location, where we would like to have activities to preserve biodiversity.*

János Dévényi*, Managing Director, Loacker Hulladékhasznosító Kft.*

Bringing nature back into our (business) lives – *EU RECOMMENDATION*

The **European Union aims to take a global leadership role** in reversing the decline of biodiversity, as preserving what remains of nature is no longer sufficient. The EU's paramount objective is for **Europe's biodiversity to be put on the path to recovery by 2030** (COM(2020) 380).

The foundation of this is **the principle of net benefit**, which dictates that we must give back more to nature than we take from it. The world must commit to the idea that species should not go extinct due to human activity whenever this is avoidable.

Key Points of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for the Period Until 2030

A Coherent Network of Protected Areas

The EU will ensure legal protection for at least 30 per cent of its terrestrial and marine areas.

An EU Nature Restoration Plan: restoring ecosystems across land and sea

To reverse the decline in biodiversity, more ambitious global nature restoration is required. In connection with this, the EU has formulated 14 commitments.

Enabling transformative change

The newly established governance framework by the Commission ensures shared responsibility and collaboration among stakeholders involved in fulfilling the EU's biodiversity commitments.

The European Union for an ambitious global biodiversity agenda

The EU is prepared to take a leading role in its foreign policy and establish a comprehensive alliance to protect biodiversity, involving like-minded partners.

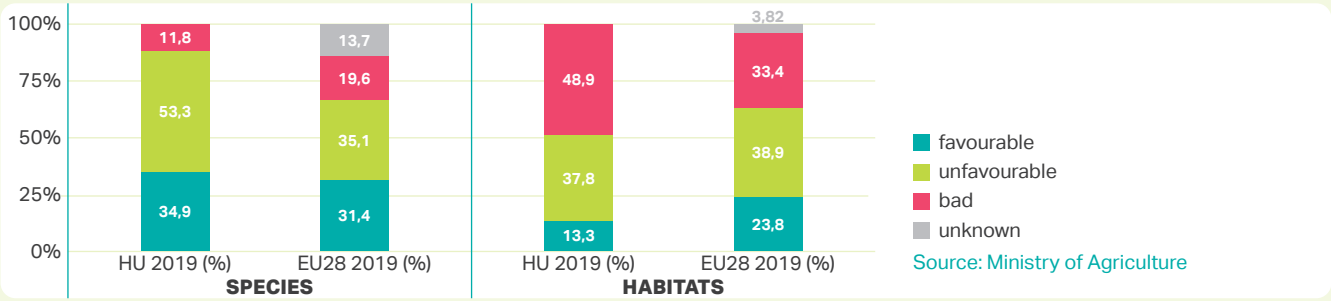
Domestic overview

The 4th Progress Report of the National Sustainable Development Framework Strategy (2019-2020) has identified that **Hungary's natural capital is in a highly vulnerable state**. The main cause of this is the degradation of natural habitats, making **preserving these habitats a critical** priority for mitigating the reduction in biodiversity (NSSF, 2021).

Another unfavourable trend is the expansion of artificial **land cover** (6.5% of the country's territory) in Hungary, which **increased by 12%** from 2009 to 2018. This continuous sealing of the land surface and fragmentation of ecosystems poses a threat to habitats and biodiversity. The creation of artificial areas can also disrupt the natural water cycle. (KSH)

In 2022, a large-scale project led by the Ministry of Agriculture was concluded, focusing on the long-term preservation and development of nationally significant natural assets, as well as comprehensive examinations that lay the foundation for the domestic implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 goals. As part of this initiative, the Ecosystem Map of Hungary was created in 2019.

Throughout the project, comparison was made between the conservation status of ecologically significant species and habitats in Hungary and the European Union between 2013 and 2018.



The report highlighted that only a mere **13.33 per cent of ecologically significant habitats have favourable conservation status**. In comparison, the proportion is more favourable at **34.9 per cent** for ecologically significant plant and animal species.

***As an agricultural insurance company**, we also have to find new ways due to the challenges of climate change. **Insurances need to be reframed and conditions developed that push farmers to a more sustainable path**, for example by encouraging them to switch to crops that are more resistant to changing climatic conditions.*

***Mihály Erdős**, President-CEO, Generali Biztosító Zrt.*

Net Zero goals unattainable without nature

BIODIVERSITY IN FOCUS WITHIN THE RACE TO ZERO PROGRAM

Preserving nature is a pivotal factor in mitigating and adapting to climate change, offering both environmental benefits and promising business opportunities. Nevertheless, recent findings indicate that a significant proportion of the private sector continues to lag far behind in their efforts to halt deforestation and protect biodiversity.

Furthermore, time is of the essence. Scientific evidence underscores the urgency of **halting biodiversity loss prior to 2030** to **avert the most severe impacts of climate change** and establish resilience against unavoidable consequences.

Based on our current knowledge, it is evident that **global warming, climate change**, and **biodiversity loss**, primarily attributed to **unsustainable production and consumption**, are **closely intertwined**, even though they are driven by distinct mechanisms.

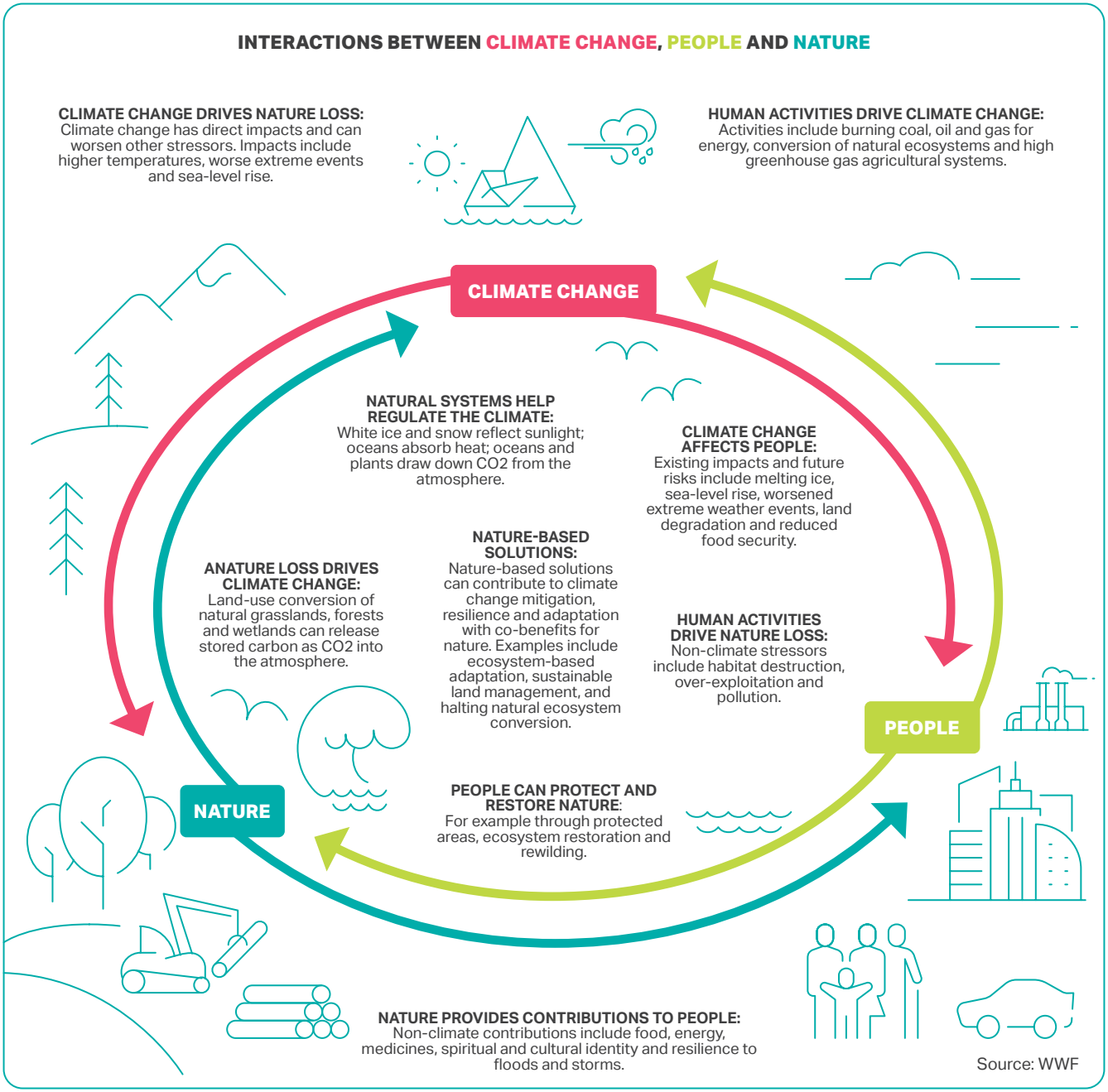
Partly due to **extreme weather events**, the **accelerated degradation of nature often triggers further and more extreme climate change**. This mutually **reinforcing effect deserves significant attention** in addressing the climate emergency, especially considering that biodiversity-related initiatives could **account for one-third of the cost-effective solutions needed to deal with climate change**.

Preserving the natural world is a crucial factor in achieving net-zero targets. Managing our landscapes, whether individual gardens, arable lands, or vast indigenous forests and wetlands, is essential for carbon sequestration and storage. **Transforming and making these systems more sustainable can aid in managing and even preventing weather extremes associated with the climate emergency while enhancing and safeguarding the biological diversity of our plant and animal life.**

> ***The world's increasing demand for protein means an increasing number of cows.*** *Making this more sustainable is essential for our future. That's why the feed supplement developed by the DSM team is important as* ***it reduces methane emissions by 30% - without jeopardizing animal welfare, feed consumption or performance. This solution impacts 4% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions****.*

Zsolt Csavajda*, Managing Director,*
DSM Hungary Zrt.

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, PEOPLE AND NATURE



Source: WWF

Net Zero Advisory Board

THE COORDINATION OF REGULATORY, SCIENTIFIC AND CORPORATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NATURE-POSITIVE NET ZERO GOALS

The Net Zero Advisory Board, composed of renowned experts, has been established **to facilitate and accelerate the process of making the Hungarian economy naturally carbon neutral by 2050**, thus taking an important step towards halting climate change and promoting climate adaptation.

The Advisory Board is a **cross-sectoral collaboration**, consisting of representatives **of Hungarian industry and business leaders, government and associations**, was set up as the initiative of the British Embassy and the Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary (BCSDH).

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Zsombor Barta
Parlamentary Senior Counselor, NFFT (NCSD) – National Council for Sustainable Development

Zsolt Bertalan
President, Smart Future Innovation Cluster

Attila Chikán Jr.
President, BCSDH - Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary

Paul Fox
Ambassador of the UK to Hungary

Anikó Juhász
Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Csaba Kandrács Dr.
Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Hungary

András Kárpáti
President, Future Mobility Association

Marcell Kovács
MLBKT - Hungarian Logistics, Supply and Stockholding Company, CEO, MASPED

Csaba Kőrösi
President, UN General Assembly

Attila Steiner
State Secretary for Energy and Climate Policy, Ministry of Energy

Diána Ürge-Vorsatz, Prof. Dr.
Vice-Chair, IPCC - UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Gábor Szarvas
President, HUGBC – Hungary Green Building Council

The number of companies committing to net zero has doubled – specific objectives and steps are still lacking

In 2022, we once again assessed the progress of the Hungarian business sector in terms of their position on the **path to carbon-neutral operations**. While the topic is gaining prominence among companies, the **accurate measurement of emissions is still below the required level**.

Deloitte was the professional partner of the Towards Net Zero research.

73%
of domestic surveyed companies plan to go carbon neutral by 2050 at the latest.

35% of the surveyed companies have a Scope 1, 2, 3 GHG reduction target, but only **20%** measure it.

Seventy-nine per cent of the surveyed companies have some **emission-reduction goals**. However, only 60% have a specific target, and only 44% measure at least Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Learn more about the *survey* on our website!

Our joint research with BCSDH on 'Toward Net Zero' *has also highlighted that* ***the topic of decarbonisation and the related target setting increasingly gains prominence****. The number of net zero emissions targets among the surveyed companies have doubled in just one year. As advisors, our goal is to support our Clients* ***in emission calculations, formulating reduction targets, and taking action****.*

Balázs Bíró*, CEO, Deloitte Business Advisory and Management Consulting Ltd.*

SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE STRATEGY AND HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AS WELL – COMMITMENTS TO PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY HAVE NOW APPEARED

In 2023, our **sustainability maturity assessment** survey was conducted with the participation of 80 companies. The aim was to evaluate the sustainability performance of BCSDH member companies. Additionally, we assessed their **dedication to preserving biodiversity**. Our work was supported by one of our member companies, **IFUA Horváth & Partners Ltd.**

Vision, strategy

65% define strategic activities and create strategies to help achieve sustainability goals
26% set targets but do not define activities or strategies

Governance, indicators

for **33%**, sustainability is an important aspect of governance and indicators have an impact on managers' assessment
67% consider sustainability to be a factor in management alongside economic considerations

Financial decisions

For **61%**, financial planning and financing is based on back-testing
35% are ad hoc or independent of the core activity
The priority of sustainability is less prevalent (5%), with only a few actors

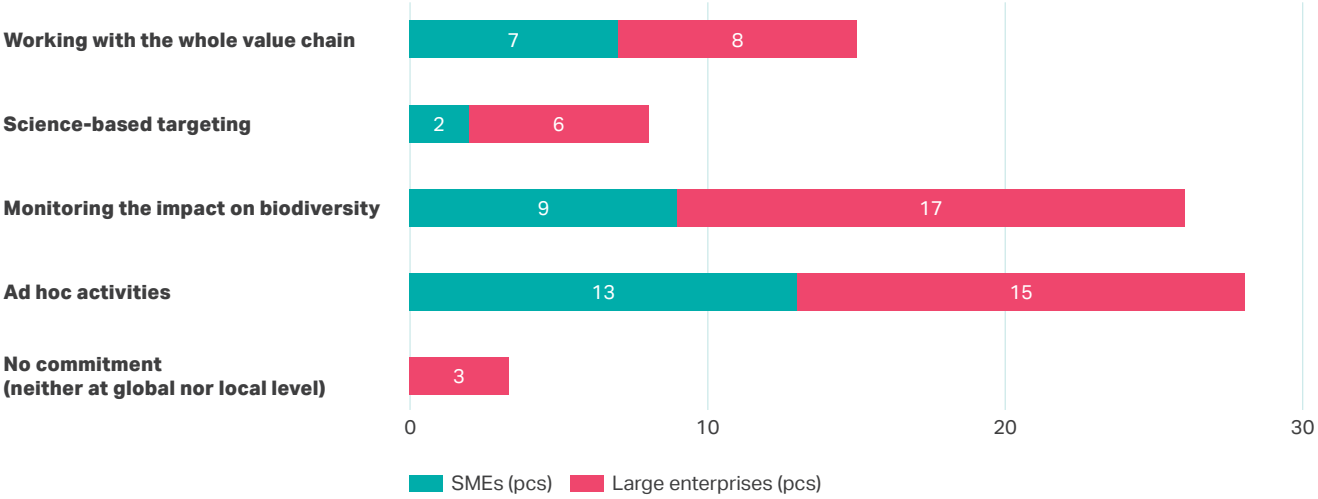
Level of responsibility

41% all levels of the organisation are involved in sustainability efforts
28% have senior level responsibility for sustainability

In **organisations with advanced sustainability strategies**, sustainability is typically the responsibility of **top-level executives**, and the **planning of sustainability activities is coordinated in alignment with core operations**. While a significant **majority** of respondents **pay attention to sustainability metrics**, management typically emphasises **economic considerations**, especially in unfavourable economic conditions.

BIODIVERSITY-RELATED COMMITMENTS ARE ALREADY EMERGING AMONG COMPANIES

Commitment to restore biodiversity by 2050



Commitments to preserving and restoring biodiversity are already present within companies, but examining the business impact on biological diversity is necessary for further growth. Taking a **strategic approach**, **defining** specific **objectives**, and adopting a **value-chain mindset** are advisable further steps in this direction.

***In the preservation of biodiversity, soil and water protection, all companies have an important role. Actions** are needed that are **based on examining the impact on biological diversity, quality soil and availability of natural clean water**. Related goal setting should be **included in corporate strategy, strengthening of action planning, and systematic feedback** (reporting) is essential for progress.*

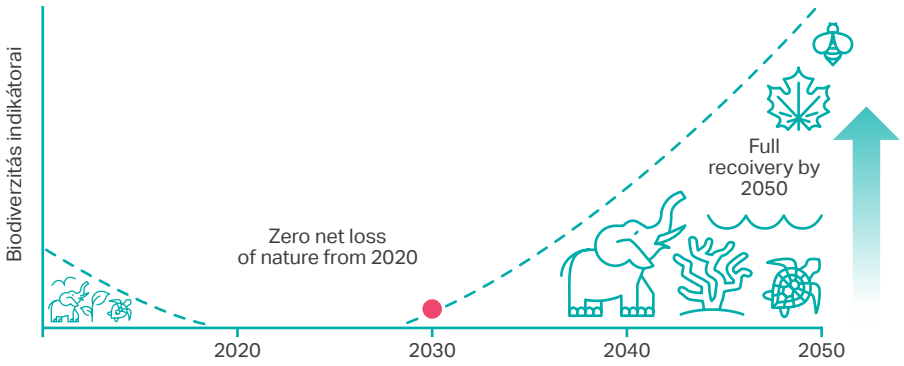
***Viktória Bodnár, PHD**, CEO, IFUA Horváth & Partners Ltd.*

BCSDH's recommendations for the business sector in respect of biodiversity

Nature can contribute to one-third of climate-change-related solutions, and accelerated biodiversity loss is underway. Every enterprise is built upon nature, offering opportunities for investment in nature-based solutions that promote the systemic change we need.

The following recommendations are the outcome of a **comprehensive professional effort**, encompassing the consultations undertaken by the **BCSDH Business Breakfast and Forum, CEO roundtable discussions**, as well as **numerous professional** meetings with experts in the field. The BCSDH recommendation addresses the business sphere, advocating for preserving and restoring biodiversity.

Global Goal for Nature: Nature Positive by 2030



Source: www.naturepositive.org

BCSDH's recommendations for the business sector in respect of preserving and restoring biodiversity

Conduct organisational impact assessments and set goals for preserving and restoring natural and biological diversity.

Identify relevant areas and implement strategic initiatives that incorporate natural diversity into decision-making processes.

Adopt and apply a holistic approach and mindset throughout the value chain, fostering partnerships and collaboration.

*In the **construction industry**, we must not forget that the **resources we use are obtained from nature**, which provides a home to the diverse ecosystems developed over millions of years. **Our mission is to shape our industrial activities with utmost consideration for this and regard biodiversity as a fundamental pillar of our business strategy. T**hat is why we have initiated our **biodiversity program at our dolomite quarry in the Pilis Mountains**, aiming **to provide habitats and living space for valuable plant and animal species** found in this area.*

***Daniel Domini**, CEO, Saint-Gobain*

1. RECOMMENDATION

Conduct organisational impact assessments and set goals for preserving and restoring natural and biological diversity

The preservation of natural assets is a collective responsibility across all businesses. Companies and financial institutions **must consistently monitor, assess, and transparently disclose** their impacts on biodiversity, their **dependencies, and related risks**. Subsequently, they **should develop action plans** based on these insights. Currently, only 5% of global businesses measure their impacts on nature, and less than 1% are aware of their dependencies (Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, 2023). Findings from the BCSDH Sustainability Maturity Survey also revealed that **96%** of surveyed domestic enterprises are **committed to biodiversity**; however, they may not fully grasp their roles or the specific areas where they can contribute to preserving biological diversity. More comprehensive assessment in this area could assist in this regard.

Five-step process for meeting science-based targets for managing biodiversity

Assess	Interpret & prioritize	Measure, set & disclose	Act	Track
Assess materiality *Map the value chain*	*Identify spheres of influence* *Prioritize places*	*Measure baseline* *Develop monitoring plan* *Set targets* *Disclose baseline and targets*	*Avoid* *Reduce* *Restore & regenerate* *Transform*	*Monitor* *Report* *Verify*
Assess and identify your company's most material impacts and dependencies on nature and where they occur in your value chain.	Interpret the assessment results, prioritize different places across your spheres of influence where you can start acting today.	Use draft measurement framework and available guidance to determine how much action is needed in different places.	Use mitigation hierarchy to develop plans to deliver your targets.	Monitor your progress, adapt your strategy if necessary, and report your progress publicly.

Source: Science Based Targets Network

The issue of biodiversity and related involvement is not easy to perceive and manage at the corporate level. Therefore ***we, at ALTEO, committed ourselves strategically to this topic. We have undertaken a comprehensive survey and allocated resources to preserve and restore biodiversity*** *so that we can make a meaningful impact where it is most needed.*

Attila Chikán Jr.*, CEO,*
ALTEO

2. RECOMMENDATION

Identify relevant areas and implement strategic initiatives that incorporate natural diversity into decision-making processes

Biodiversity is of critical significance for numerous businesses, either due to processes requiring biological materials or because having a healthy and stable environment is integral to their operations.

Companies that recognize their responsibility to preserve and replenish biodiversity at both strategic and operational levels demonstrate to stakeholders and employees alike that they are taking this matter seriously. This enables them to **address biodiversity strategically**, encompassing its **entire operational scope**. By **integrating biodiversity** issues and considerations into pre-existing sustainability strategies and other **operational decisions**, companies can effectively and strategically engage with biodiversity. Our sustainability maturity assessment highlights that 30% of pioneering companies have identified relevant areas and initiated strategic initiatives while maintaining an exceptionally high level of commitment.

Examples of activities through which a company can positively impact biodiversity include:

Managing land ownership with consideration for biodiversity

Ensuring procurement comes from sustainable sources

Providing employees with time off to participate in local biodiversity conservation projects

Influencing stakeholders such as suppliers, customers, and employees to preserve and restore biodiversity

Offering financial support to biodiversity conservation projects

Biodiversity is critically important for the ecosystem services provided by nature. ***Ecosystem services cannot exist without water management that sustains them****. Therefore, the* ***water sector has not only an interest but also a direct responsibility to protect biodiversity.***

Károly Kovács, PhD,
Executive Director, BDL Ltd.

3. RECOMMENDATION

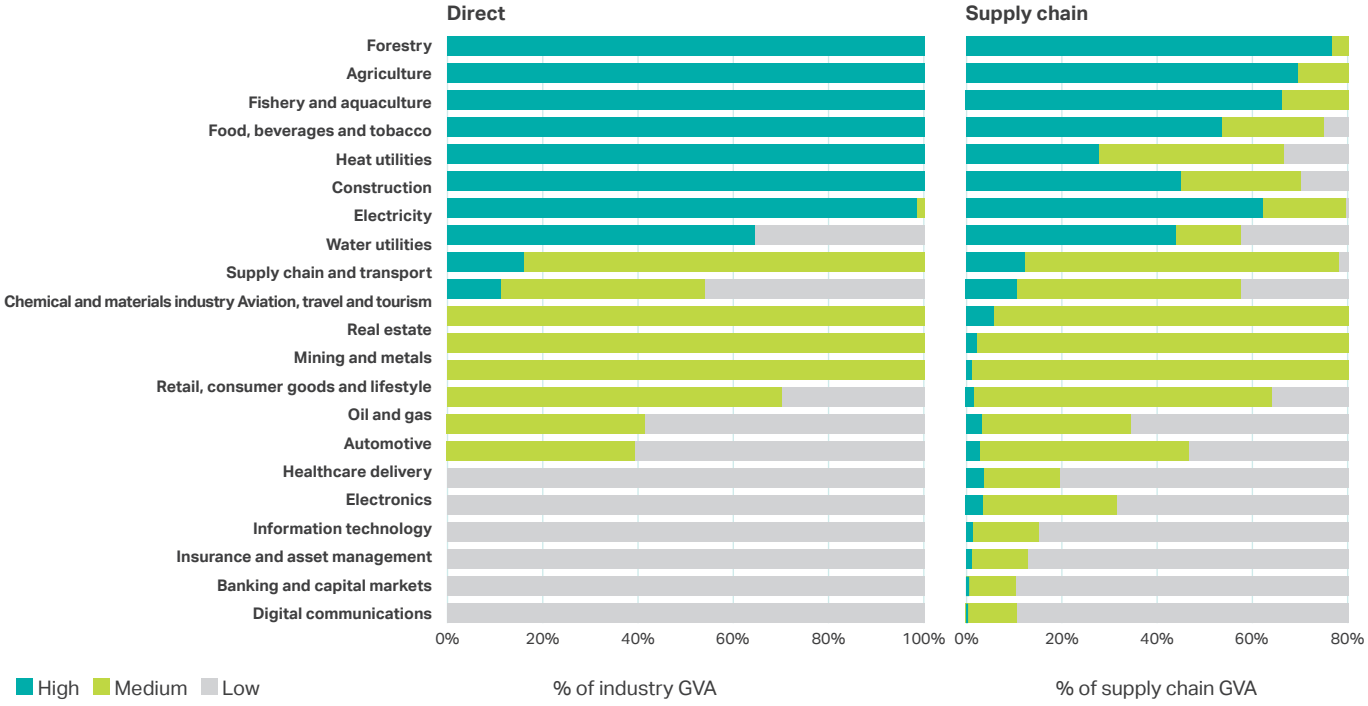
Adopt and apply a holistic approach and mindset throughout the value chain, fostering partnerships and collaboration

Since COP15, it has become even more imperative for companies to **take action to reduce habitat loss** and initiate the **monitoring and control of their involvement in this and related risks along their supply chains**. According to the sustainability readiness survey conducted by BCSDH, almost 20% of the surveyed companies are currently contemplating how to better preserve and restore biodiversity throughout the entire value chain.

Consumer goods are clearly affected at the raw material level by the decline in biodiversity (e.g., soybeans, cattle, paper, and palm oil). However, every company must assess its exposure to this issue, as **no company remains exempt from responsibility through its supplier network**.

Gross value added and nature dependency

% of direct and supply chain GVA with high, medium, and low nature dependency, by industry



Source: World Economic Forum

INDUSTRY AND VALUE-CHAIN COLLABORATION IS NEEDED

Companies must strive to create partnerships and engage in collaboration that consolidates their resources and expertise and helps overcome obstacles, such as costs and access to technology, as ecosystem services constitute a complex system that can only be preserved through collective action and partnerships.

*As **facility managers**, we see both the **responsibility and the opportunity to make meaningful changes** to promote climate adaptation and biodiversity in the facilities we operate. **Rethinking of building usage processes and changing the energy usage habits** can also contribute a lot to this both at the level of supply systems of buildings and tenants, users. And if this **attitude change happens on systemic level,** we can achieve a **significant impact for the nature not to mention the savings.***

***Gábor Décsi**, CEO,*
Dome Group Hungary Zrt.

***The conservation and restoration of biodiversity must begin at the planning stage. By incorporating industrial ecological considerations**, taking conscious steps, adopting long-term thinking, and establishing partnerships, **we can collectively make a significant difference**. Advanced solutions such as **local root zone treatment of rainwater in office buildings or the recovery of wastewater heat are only possible with such a comprehensive approach**.*

***Tibor Massányi**, Managing Partner,*
DVM Group

***The built environment plays a key role in protecting biodiversity**. Gránit Pólus wants to play a role primarily in **shaping attitudes and promoting responsible thinking about our environment through the highly visited facilities** it manages - the Westend Shopping Center, the Papp László Budapest Sports Arena and the Palace of Arts.*

***Miklós Gyertyánfy,** Chief Operating Officer,*
Gránit Pólus

YOU

&

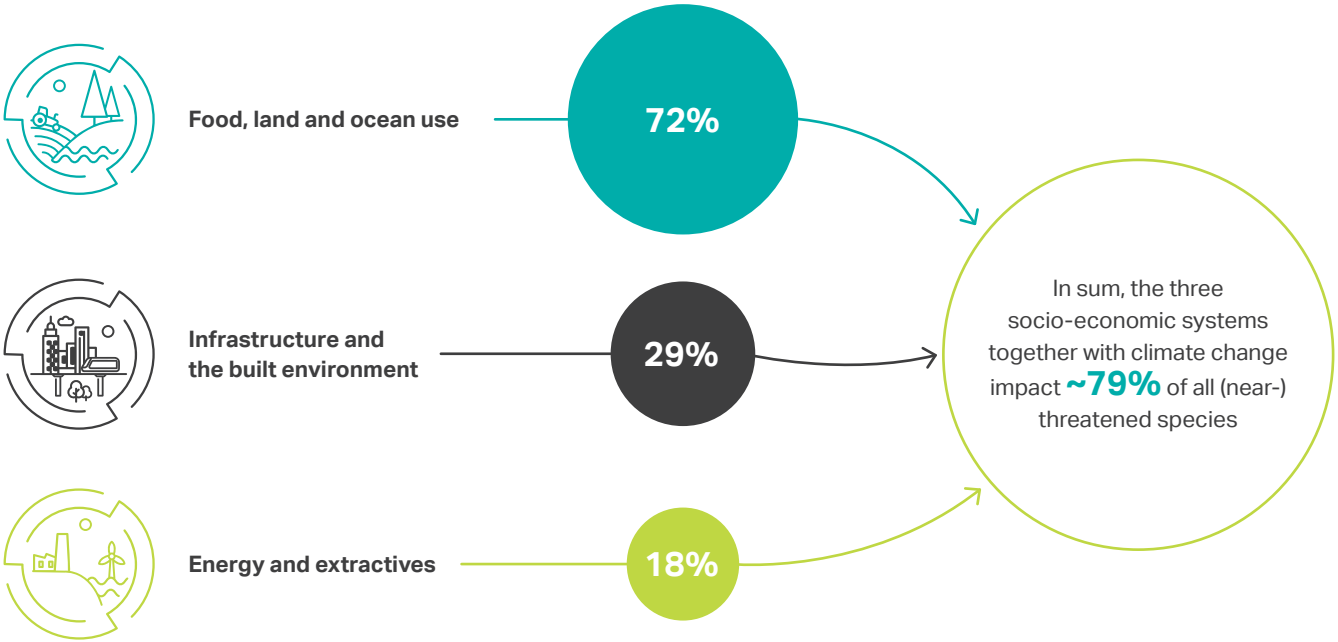
K&H
dönts okosan

K&H
& a more sustainable home for all

The biodiversity conservation project is supported by K&H Bank and implemented by WWF Hungary.

ONLY A FEW PRIORITY SYSTEMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES

Share of (near-) threatened species impacted



*Because there is partial overlap between species affected by each system, the percentage of species affected by all systems is less than the sum of the percentages of species affected by each system.

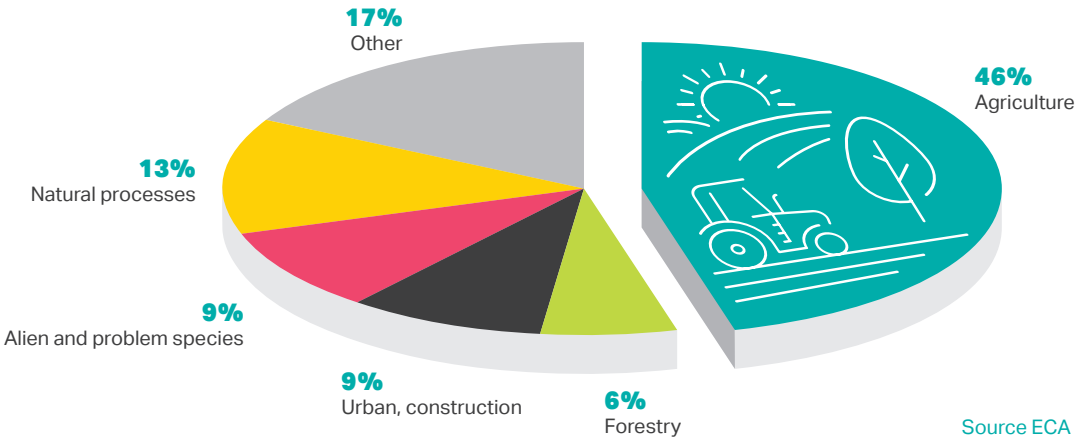
Source: WEF

***Water and sustainability have always been at the heart of Grundfos**, being sustainable is one of our basic value. That's why **we strive to pioneer solutions to the world's water and climate challenges** and improve people's life quality and this goal should be part of everyday's operation.*

***Olivér Szundy**, Country Director,*
Grundfos Hungary

The role of food is critical for biodiversity restoration

Key pressures on grassland habitats in Natura 2000 areas



Source ECA

Our global food system is the primary driver of the decline in biological diversity, and of the 28.000 species, agriculture poses a threat to the 24.000 species that are now at risk of extinction. The global pace of species extinction today exceeds the average of the past ten million years. The impacts of producing more food at a lower cost extend beyond the decimation of biological diversity. The global food system is also a key driver of climate change, **accounting for approximately 30% of human-caused emission** (Food System Impacts on Biodiversity Loss, 2021)

ACCELERATING SYSTEM-LEVEL TRANSFORMATION IS CRUCIAL

Demand for food is projected to **increase by 60% by 2050**. This signifies that decisions that are made today will significantly influence food security and impact the environment, economy, healthcare, education, peace, and human rights.

Specifically, the global food system needs to be transformed to achieve two key objectives:

1. Ensure food and nutrition security and end hunger once and for all.
2. Reverse the degradation caused by human activities and restore ecosystems.
(UNEP, Food System Summit, 2021)

Regenerative agriculture

SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Regenerative agriculture encompasses farming and grazing practices that, among other things, aim to reverse the impacts of climate change through rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity. As a result, soil quality, biodiversity, water retention, and carbon sequestration can be improved.

Producing food using regenerative agricultural methods can be a systemic solution that offers benefits in terms of human health, animal welfare, the environment, and economics.

Increased yield and disease and drought resistance that are achieved without synthetic pesticides and antibiotics also enhance community food security. Additionally, this approach ensures the greater resilience of regional food systems during extreme weather events and disruptions in supply chains.

Builds healthy organic soil
Improves soil health and structure
Reduces erosion
Increases production

Increases economic productivity
Reduces exposure to chemicals
Reduces costs
Improves quality of life

Protects the local environment
Reduces the use of chemicals
Improves biodiversity
Reduces pollution

Provides benefits to consumers
Higher food quality
Diversified diets
Increased nutritional value

Reverses climate change
Improves carbon sequestration
Reduces floods/droughts
Reduces fuel use in the economy

Implementing change is challenging as this requires a **behavioural and cultural paradigm shift** from farmers. It is a **slow and long process during which numerous new solutions need to be experimented with while maintaining daily operations. Markets do not always immediately appreciate the extra effort**, and changing practices comes with **additional costs and risks** for farmers. Even though regenerative solutions can yield better economic results, it is also **important** that **companies support this process through their investments, either by securing their supply chains, meeting ESG expectations, or counting on using carbon credits**.

Producers of raw materials for the food industry are faced with a huge challenge at the same time due to the effects of climate change, such as increasingly frequent and prolonged droughts and deteriorating soil quality. Thanks to ***our regenerative agriculture project launched in Hungary, the production of raw materials puts less burden on the environment, helps the soil's water retention capacity, increases biodiversity and climate adaptation.***

Péter Noszek*, Managing Director,*
Nestlé Hungária Kft.

Nestlé Good food, Good life

Regenerative agriculture

At Nestlé, we are making it our business to advance regenerative food systems at scale. In order to spread regenerative agricultural practices in Hungary, we cooperate with farmers in the Western Transdanubia region within the framework of the LENs program.

What should we know about nature-based carbon neutralization?

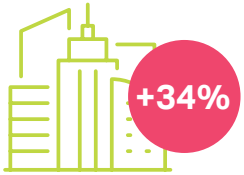
Compensation hierarchies have been utilised for over a century when managing natural resources to prioritise the steps that yield optimal outcomes for people and the environment. These steps typically encompass **Avoidance, Reduction, Restoration, Compensation, and Offsetting**.

An increasing number of companies are setting climate goals and drawing attention to their fulfilment.

While companies can and should aim to undertake most activities in-house, they usually need some additional tools to deliver fully. **Carbon neutralisation** is the most common **complementary tool** used by companies. Its main area of application is the so-called voluntary carbon market, where the 'fruits' of emission reduction projects are exchanged in the form of carbon credits. **Carbon offsetting**, including **nature-based carbon credits**, is likely to **become increasingly popular in Hungary**. The Central Bank of Hungary's new publication, "**Nature-based solutions and voluntary carbon markets – corporate buyer's guide**", produced with the professional support of BCSDH and WWF, aims to anticipate this process. BCSDH has prepared a **CEO Guide** that highlights the key ideas.

The publications (in Hungarian) are available here:

The entire construction value chain has a direct impact on biodiversity



Buildings are responsible for **34%** of final energy consumption and **37%** of greenhouse gas emissions.
(UN, 2022)

Building-related energy demand has increased by approximately **4%** since 2020, marking the largest growth in the past ten years.
(UN, 2022)

Over **90%** of the decline in biodiversity is attributed to unsustainable resource utilisation.
(Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2021)

The built-environment sector is crucial for achieving climate neutrality goals and preserving biodiversity. The **construction industry and built environment** have **direct and often adverse impacts** on **biodiversity** across multiple areas. Moreover, in recent years, construction activities have experienced a resurgence, mainly returning to pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, in many emerging economies, the use of fossil fuels in buildings has increased (UN, 2022)

The Direct Impacts of the Built Environment and Construction Industry on Biodiversity Decline

Land-use change

On current trends, by 2030 the global expansion of urban areas could threaten an area larger than Ecuador.

Overexploitation

The construction industry is the largest global consumer of natural resources for raw materials.

Pollution

Pollution caused by the construction industry significantly affects the state of ecosystems.

Climate change

The greenhouse gas emissions of the construction industry are significant.

Invasive alien species

Long-distance transportation promotes the appearance of invasive alien species.

Source: Ellen Macarthur Foundation, 2021

The IPCC's report of 2022 also highlighted that with **comprehensive technological and policy measures** (tailored to national specificities), the transition could be feasibly achieved within a foreseeable timeframe (UN, 2022).

Sustainable architecture is associated with numerous opportunities, the exploration of which will pose a significant challenge in forthcoming years.

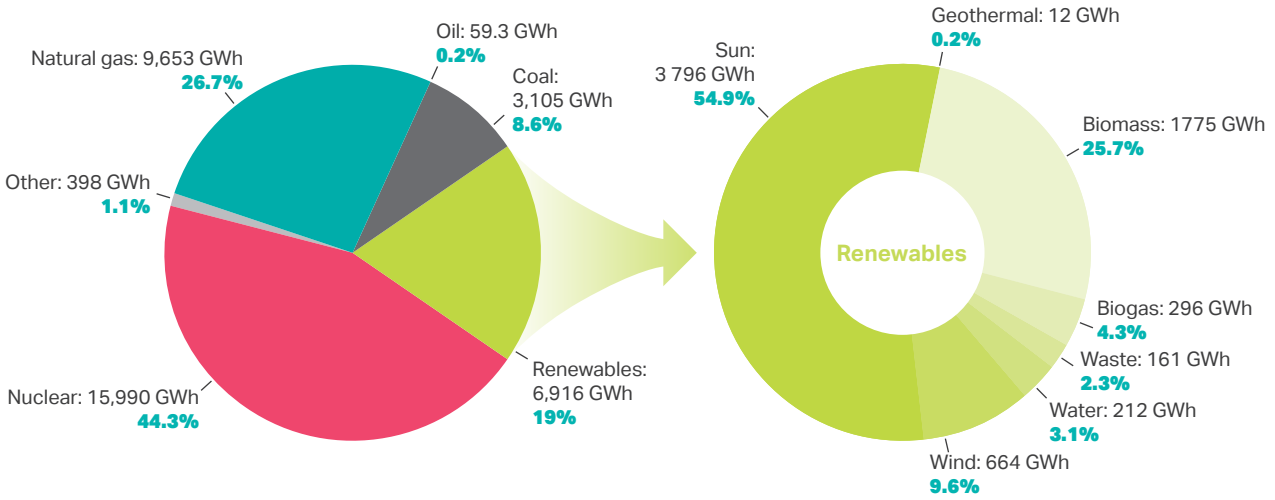
Bosco Verticale (Milan)

Renewable energy production should always take biodiversity into account

The decarbonisation of the energy system is of critical importance for achieving climate neutrality. The utilisation of renewable energy from even more sustainable sources will be essential for halting and reversing the impacts of climate change and the decline in biodiversity. However, the approach to achieving this is crucial, emphasising the significance of applying nature-positive sustainable energy solutions.

In the European Union, over 20% of the energy that is consumed comes from renewable sources, and this proportion has more than doubled since 2004. The EU's current target of 32% by 2030 has been reevaluated and increased for buildings, heating, cooling, and the industrial sector. In September 2022, Parliament called for the target to be raised to 45%.

Distribution of gross electricity production by energy carrier, 2021 (GWh)



WWF'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTORS AND DEVELOPERS:

- From the outset, integrate biodiversity, social, and environmental risks into renewable energy production planning and investment decisions.
- Apply efficient biodiversity protection and environmental impact assessment procedures to avoid and minimise impacts and compensate for any residual impacts to achieve a net positive outcome.
- Monitor raw materials and consider the effects of the supply chain within the framework of corporate commitments to nature.
- Employ a circular approach to minimise the use of primary materials and maximise the reuse and recycling of materials.
- Enhance corporate transparency and reporting regarding biodiversity, the environment, and social impacts.

New Generation Solar Parks for Biodiversity Conservation – *PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE FOR HUNGARY*

The fulfilment of the objectives of the Hungarian energy strategy and the sustainable implementation of 6000 MW solar power capacity can only be envisioned through the development of these facilities in an **environmentally and nature-friendly manner**, taking into utmost consideration the **ecological expectations and characteristics of the respective areas**.

To enable the creation of a specific guideline tailored for domestic solar parks, akin to the recommendations of WWF, comprehensive collaboration was essential, led by **Solservices** and involving **Alteo Energy** Service Plc., along with numerous specialized organizations in the field, such as BioaquaPro Ltd., Geohidroterv, the Kiskunság National Park Directorate, the Hungarian Professional Beekeepers' Association, and STS Trade Commercial Ltd.

The guideline provides insights into and solutions for how solar parks can help promote plant diversity as well as bird, insect, bat, and wildlife conservation.

DEVELOPMENT PATH FOR NEW GENERATION SOLAR PARKS ACCORDING TO THE GUIDELINES:

1. During the **planning phase**, when selecting potential project locations, **biodiversity aspects** must be taken into account, along with evaluating the natural characteristics of the area. **Brownfield areas are environmentally and nature-conservation-wise the most favourable.**

2. For potential project development areas, it is advisable to conduct a **comprehensive environmental and nature conservation survey**. This will **help assess risks at an early planning stage and make it easier to avoid or manage them**. At this stage, it is worthwhile establishing contact and collaborating with local government authorities.

3. After obtaining permits, **alongside the technical plans, a biodiversity program should be developed** that aligns with safety and technical requirements.

4. **In the 2-4 years following construction, the efficiency of installed equipment must be monitored.** Data collection is necessary, potentially on a voluntary basis.

5. **The transparent communication** of results and **informing stakeholders** is of utmost importance.

*"**Lumen Park Szolnok is Hungary's first next-generation solar park**, which, **in terms of its environmental impact, appears as a particularly positive medium on the outskirts of the city**. Its most important virtue is to **maximize the positive environmental effect**: the plant and animal life becomes stronger and more diverse, the soil rejuvenates, and it can also create opportunities for installing beehives.*

***Gábor Farkas**, Managing Director,*
SolServices Ltd.

Accessible skies for our birds

Since 2019, we have been exclusively building bird-friendly networks, and we are continuously upgrading our older networks to make them safe.

Transport directly impacts biodiversity through its infrastructure

Europe is crisscrossed by six million kilometres of roads, railways, and canals.
(BISON, 2023)

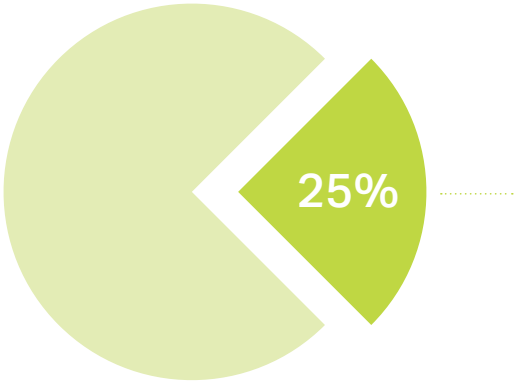
2X

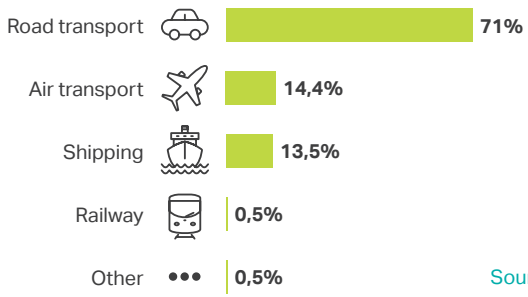
If current trends continue, the size of the road network will be twice as large in 2050 as it was in 2010.
(BISON, 2023)

Globally, by 2050, 25 million kilometres of new roads and 335,000 kilometres of new railways will be created, mobilising approximately $3.5-4 trillion annually.
(BISON, 2023)

One-third of endangered species could become threatened over the next 30 years due to infrastructure development.
(BISON, 2023)

Transportation is a significant **driver of global economic development** but also considerably impacts **climate change** and biodiversity decline. The development and presence of roads can reduce landscape permeability, cause habitat loss, and increase habitat fragmentation. These fundamental changes in landscape structure could directly and indirectly affect species and biodiversity conservation. **Therefore, it is crucial that biodiversity-related considerations are fully integrated into the planning, implementation, and utilisation phases of transportation infrastructure.**





Source: European Commission

The system of **interconnections** between transportation, climate change, and biodiversity is exceedingly **intricate. Beyond the land use changes attributed to transport, introducing invasive species directly contributes to ecosystem degradation.**

In this area, in addition to market players, the role of the state as owner of a large part of the infrastructure is even more pronounced than in other areas.

Business solutions for biodiversity

Nestlé
Jó étellel teljes az élet

Regenerative agriculture in the Nestlé pet food supply chain (Bük and surroundings)

SOLSERVICES

New generation solar farm professional guide

GRUNDFOS

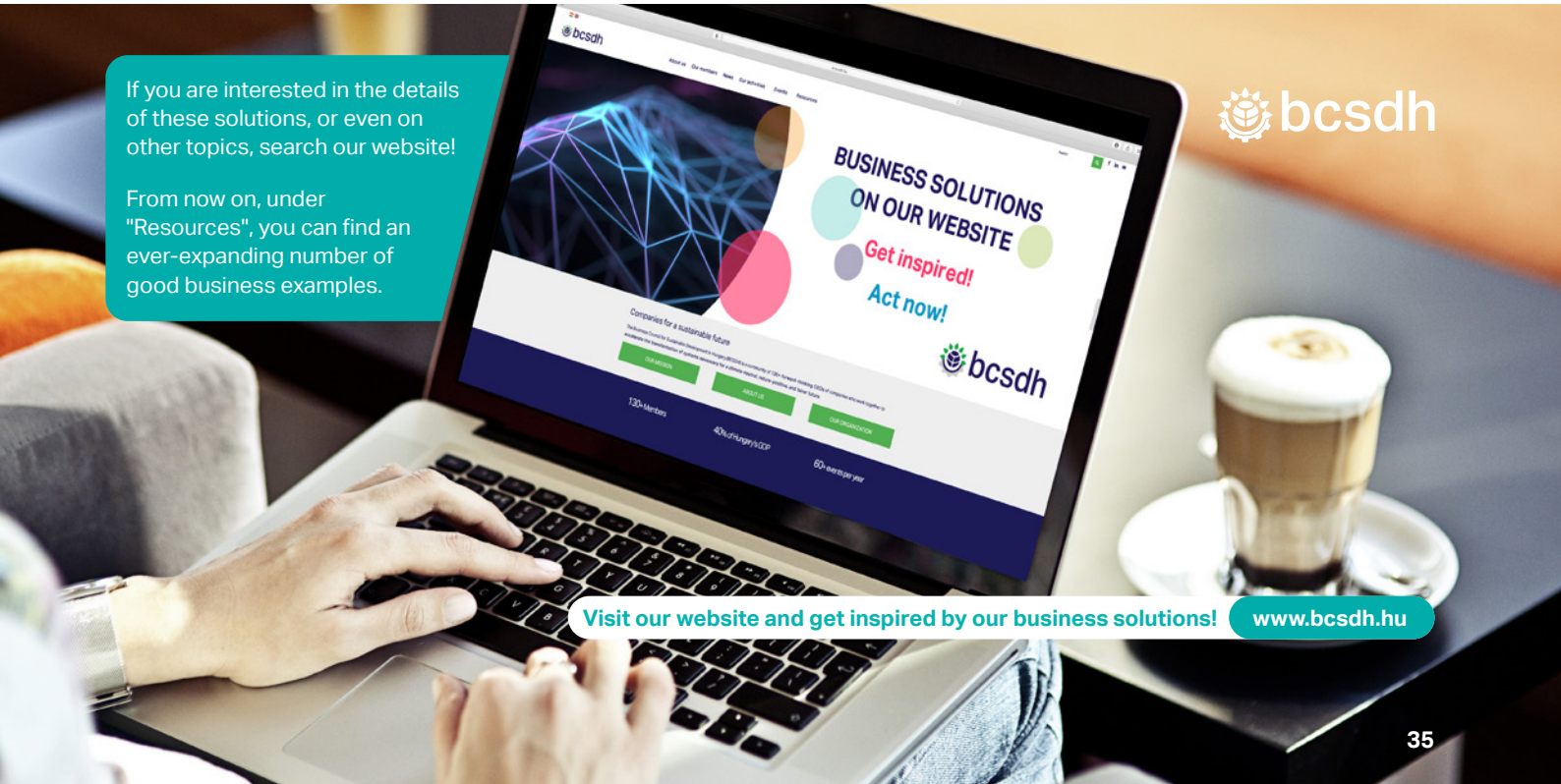
Reforestation project in the area of Székesfehérvár plant

GRAPHISOFTPARK

Natural office park

SAINT-GOBAIN

Biodiversity conservation and restoration at the dolomite plant in Pilisvörösvár



WE HEREBY EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPERTS WHO HAVE PERSONALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE BCSDH'S TIME TO TRANSFORM 2030 PROGRAM IN 2023:

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Gábor Arató	Manupackaging Magyarország Kft.
Mariann Balásfalvi-Lukácsi	BCSDH
Attila Bálint	IKEA Lakberendezési Kft.
Annamária Bartók	Silvestris & Szilas Kft.
Gábor Bartus PHD	Nemzeti Fenntartható Fejlődési Tanács
Luca Bartus	Deloitte Magyarország
Orsolya Báthori	Spreadmonitor Kft.
Attila Bédi	Greenpro Zrt.
Gábor Bercsi	Spie Hungaria Kft.
Zsuzsa Berman	BNP Paribas
Viktória Bodnár PHD	IFUA Horváth & Partners Kft.
Tibor Bodor	ING Bank
Róbert Bolyán	UniCredit Bank Hungary
Flóra Borek	Deloitte Magyarország
Attila Chikán Jr.	ALTEO Energiaszolgáltató Nyrt.
Eszter Chikán-Kovács	BCSDH
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Biodiversity Briefing

Deloitte.

What is the state of biodiversity and what is the issue exactly?

Businesses are highly dependent on nature and its services, including the provision of raw materials, water, crop pollination and tourism opportunities. However, nature loss is now at unprecedented levels which also leads to major economic issues: the World Bank has estimated the damage to the ecosystem services to annual USD 2.7 trillion by 2030. In short, all businesses depend on nature in some way or another and halting biodiversity loss and addressing nature-related risks must be on the corporate agenda together with climate risks.

> *"The capacity of the natural world to provide critical services is under threat and action needs to be taken now."*

Flora Borek
Senior Manager
Sustainability and Climate Services
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+36202682817

What are the challenges for organizations regarding nature-related risks?

Most companies are by now familiar with net zero transition planning, meaning that they have assessed their carbon footprint and are developing plans on how to reduce it. Now, the "climate-nature nexus" needs to be integrated, to understand companies' impact on nature and vice-versa. This is endorsed by the urge for transparency through regulatory initiatives and the scrutiny of greenwashing. A lack of engagement could leave companies exposed to allegations that nature-related claims are not well grounded in science or subject to assurance.
The challenge is to gain regulatory clarity around current and future obligations and to build an understanding of risks around nature loss to maintaining operations.

What are the steps for organizations to tackle nature-related risks?

The capacity of the natural world to provide critical services is under threat and action needs to be taken now. It is not about what can be done anymore, but what must be done. A key consideration for organizations is the CSRD, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The organizations subject to the CSRD will be required to report according to ESRS, the European Sustainability Reporting Standards beginning in 2025 for the 2024 financial year under which organizations will need to report on their biodiversity-related impacts, risks and opportunities if they are found to be material. The guidance by the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) supports businesses in mapping impacts to translate the results into the language of risk management and to disclose outputs.

> *"As a TNFD contributor, Deloitte is at the forefront in providing companies with guidance on nature-related risk mapping and management."*

What is Deloitte's role?

As a contributor to the TNFD and thanks to partnerships with organizations like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), we are at the forefront in providing guidance on nature-related risk mapping and management. We support global clients in improving information availability to integrate nature-related risks into decision-making, including preparation for regulatory requirements disclosure. Also, we have developed data-driven AI solutions to identify and measure nature-related risks, e.g. built on the Amazon Web Services cloud, which enable processing data from various sources, like satellite imagery or camera traps.

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IMPRESSUM

Publisher: Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary

Year of publishing: 2023

Responsible for publishing: Attila Chikán Jr., President

Editing and text: Eszter Chikán-Kovács, Zsófia Galambosné Dudás, Irén Márta, Andrea Nagy, Ivett Takács and colleagues from our member companies.

Design and graphics: WBCSD and Acnecom

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We cannot achieve net zero without business action to halt and reverse nature loss. *Nature represents a third of the climate solution, and biodiversity loss is accelerating.* ***Every business depends on nature, with opportunities to invest in nature-based solutions*** *which drive the transformational change that we need.*

Diane Holdorf
Executive Vice President of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

With humanity's amazing technological advances, we are now used to looking for technical solutions to almost everything. ***But hi-tech is sometimes not the wisest choice – to achieve the sustainability transition, we need cultural and value shifts, as well as low-emission, low-tech solutions****. And with some environmental problems, the simplest and oldest solution is the best: using nature as a tool.*

Katalin Sipos,
Director, WWF Hungary