

Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative

WHY IS **BIODIVERSITY** IMPORTANT?

Preserving biological diversity is a common concern of humankind, given its importance for life on Earth, social well-being and economic development.

In addition to its intrinsic value, biodiversity provides essential goods and services to humankind, by regulating climate and hydrological cycles, providing raw materials, purifying water and air, protecting and fertilizing the soil, and pollinating crops.

We depend on the goods and services provided by ecosystems for a healthy economy and societal well-being.

However, in recent decades we have witnessed an unprecedented acceleration in biodiversity loss, and of the ensuing environmental, economic and social impacts; impacts that compromise the Earth's capacity to sustain the ecosystem-balance, and pose a threat to the quality of life of humankind.

Protecting biodiversity is a collective challenge that must be approached from a global perspective, while considering and integrating the interests of all stakeholders and economic sectors.



Solo con biodiversidad
hay sostenibilidad

What is the **Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative**?

Collaboration between the business sector and public administration is key to positioning ourselves at the forefront in one of the greatest challenges faced by society: **the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.**

Created by the Fundación Biodiversidad within the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, the **Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative**, in cooperation with the business sector, seeks to foster economic development that is compatible with biodiversity conservation.

The Initiative provides a solid framework for cooperation among large companies, NGOs, associations and national administration agencies, joining forces to improve and maintain Spain's natural capital and engaging with the private business sector toward implementation of the objectives of:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- National and international biodiversity conservation plans and strategies.

The challenge is to include biodiversity conservation and management in the business strategies of companies, while aiding business in identifying alternative and innovative opportunities and projects, as one of the solutions to the current crisis.



What are the objectives?

- **Integrate** natural capital in business policy and management.
- **Promote** and highlight the contribution of large companies to conservation of the natural environment.
- **Channel** private funding to biodiversity conservation.



Natural Capital includes all of the Earth's natural assets (soil, air, water, flora and fauna), and life-sustaining ecosystems services, such as water, medicines and food.



Guía Práctica de
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Why is this of interest to companies?

The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative:

- Supports the **incorporation of biodiversity** management into business policy through specific tools and work forums.
- Helps demonstrate and **disseminate company commitment**, advances and activities in biodiversity conservation, to highlight past experiences and encourage new initiatives.
- Advises and orients large companies wishing to invest in **biodiversity conservation projects** of their own, or through NGO, Fundación Biodiversidad or public administration projects, always searching for a with positive biodiversity impact.
- Provides **institutional representation** in national and international settings, and informs member companies of the latest trends and initiatives of interest.
- Facilitates contact and **experience-sharing** among companies and entities with business-biodiversity expertise, while serving as a nexus connecting these with public administration.

The Biodiversity Pact

A document that recognizes biological diversity conservation as an integral part of economic development

The signatory company recognizes and supports the three objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity:

- the **conservation** of biological diversity;
- the **sustainable** use of its components; and
- the **fair and equitable sharing** of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The company makes a **commitment to conduct its activity in a manner compatible with biodiversity protection and conservation**, and assumes the commitment to:

1.

Evaluate the impact of their business activity on biodiversity and natural capital.

2.

Include biodiversity protection in its management manuals.

3.

Define realistic and measurable biodiversity conservation targets, and review these every three years.

4.

Report on biodiversity conservation activities and achievements in the company's annual report.

5.

Inform suppliers of the company's biodiversity conservation objectives; support gradual supplier adherence to the objectives.

6.

Explore cooperative efforts with scientific institutions, NGOs, and governmental institutions, to further dialogue, enhance collaboration, and ensure continuous improvement of business-environmental management.

7.

Designate an in-house contact person, responsible for communication and achievement of the Pact objectives.





What does adhesion to the Initiative involve?

The company's commitment to the Initiative entails:

- Signature by the company's executive management of the Biodiversity Pact, a document that includes adhesion to the principles of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and serves to verify the company's commitment.
- Opportunity for joint work on conservation projects and initiatives for better integration of biodiversity in the company's business strategy.
- Opportunity to highlight and document the company's past biodiversity and natural capital conservation actions, and integrate these in official company policy.
- Opportunity to participate in business-biodiversity consultations, processes and events, and share the company's vision.

Who participates in the Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative?

An initiative of:

Fundación Biodiversidad

A public foundation within the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, working to preserve Spain's natural heritage and biodiversity through conservation efforts that generate employment and enrich and benefit society. Fundación Biodiversidad conducts over 300 environmental projects each year, and actively collaborates with the business community.

MEMBER COMPANIES:



STRATEGIC PARTNERS:





The **Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative**, established by Fundación Biodiversidad, within the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, works with business in pursuit of economic development compatible with biodiversity conservation.

The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative provides a solid framework for cooperation among large companies, NGOs, associations, and national administration agencies, working for the improvement and conservation of Spain's natural capital.

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