



Call for Methods for Natural Capital Assessments

Have you developed a tool, methodology or resource that can help business measure, account for and/or value natural capital impacts and dependencies? If so, we would like to hear from you!

Table of Contents

Background	1
Why?	1
What are we looking for?.....	2
How will the review process work?.....	3

Background

Through the [Transparent](#) Project, the [Value Balancing Alliance](#) – consisting of international companies and supported by pro bono consultants from the four largest professional services firms (Deloitte, EY, KPMG & PwC) – and the [Capitals Coalition](#) – a global collaboration of more than 370 organizations – have joined forces with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to develop a set of natural capital accounting principles to business to empower the private sector to mainstream the value of nature into decision making. While Transparent makes reference to biodiversity considerations, the technical recommendations for measurement and valuation are further explored through a sister project called [Align](#).

The project is seeking to deliver robust, consistent, and simple approaches for implementation in corporate natural capital accounts. The use of holistic datasets and standardized methodologies allows the value of nature and people to be integrated into decision making. Integrated datasets will also enable businesses to better understand how best to align their organizations with broad societal ambitions such as the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Transparent consortium has already sought comments on the first draft of Transparent Methodology.

Why?

The need for businesses and organisations to understand their impacts and dependencies on natural capital is essential not only to address the twin biodiversity and climate change emergencies but also for the long-term sustainability and viability of their business's needs.

Feedback from the consultation period highlighted the need to strengthen advice on accessible, up to date and repeatable methodologies for measuring and accounting for natural capital. This call will help us identify approaches used for assessing impact drivers and dependencies.

A call for methods was already conducted as an input to the development of the Natural Capital Protocol. Similarly, another call for methods focused on biodiversity was developed as an input to the Biodiversity Supplement. We are building on this collection in the Natural Capital Toolkit and looking for new or updated versions of methods, with special focus on the Measure and Value Stage. This will allow us to finalise a methodology that reflects the most recent developments.

What are we looking for?

We are calling for tools, methodologies and resources that are being used or could be used to measure, account for and/or value natural capital within corporate natural capital assessments. All methods submitted will be reviewed fully by the project technical group and discussed with a Technical Review panel that will be formed to steer their integration into the Methodology. Selected methods will inform future versions of the Transparent Methodology and will be incorporated alongside other comments we have received on the first draft. The materials shared on this Call can be included in the Natural Capital Toolkit, if those organizations sharing them approve.

The tools will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Practical:** Easily accessible with analytical and understandable outputs. Supporting analysis for non-scientific and non-specialist users what comes to terminology, process and execution.
- **Verifiable:** Based on sound principles and best available science. Needs to be a robust, credible, transparent and technically defensible/ validated method of valuation or analysis.
- **Timely:** Applicable for various periods within a reasonable timeframe, it can be done to produce timely information for different reporting periods on a regular basis.
- **Consistent:** Consistent with accepted classifications and approaches to allow comparisons across assessments.
- **Widely applicable:** For different industries, sectors, business sizes and geographies.
- **Scalable:** Some flexibility to be useful at various spatial scales or dimensions.
- **Measurable:** Based on measurable and when possible, quantifiable data.
- **Relevant:** To business to measure and value their impacts and dependencies on natural capital.
- **Transparent:** Input data is publicly available, and method can be easily replicated by users.

Tools, methodologies and/or resources, may be in the form of text, tables, decision-trees, diagrams, models including algorithms, or other. They should be applicable to businesses in any sector, or have the potential to be transferable or to become generic. Similarly, they should have the potential to apply to businesses operating in any geographical location.

Feedback from the first draft of the Transparent Methodology also highlighted the need for methods that cover the marine environment, an area that is often insufficiently covered in natural capital assessments. We are therefore particularly interested in methods and case studies focussed on valuing the marine environment and the services that flow from it.

Please do not feel the need to re-submit materials that you have already provided in response to previous calls as we will review methods captured in the [Natural Capital Toolkit](#) and the natural capital call for biodiversity. However, we welcome any updates or additional details that can be provided to supplement previous submissions, along with case studies on the application of valuation methods in natural capital assessments.

How will the review process work?

All submitted tools, methodologies and/or resources will be subject to review by a highly qualified panel of experts to assess how their suitability for standardised corporate natural capital accounting. Please do state if any tools, methodologies and/or resources submitted are proprietary or confidential.

Any tools, methodologies and/or resources selected will receive appropriate recognition. Your organisation will be invited to provide clarifications in relation to the use of your contributed materials, to ensure appropriate referencing and application of the materials submitted, and to review the final document produced.

If you are interested in submitting a tool, methodology and/or resource please contact us with your material before **February 28th**. We look forward to receiving all potential contributions.

Please respond to our [Google Form](#) to record information about your method(s).

For more information on the project and submission process, please contact transparent@value-balancing.com.