



BSI Standards Publication

Biodiversity — Considering biodiversity in the strategy and operations of organizations — Requirements and guidelines

National foreword

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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ISO 17298

**Biodiversity — Considering
biodiversity in the strategy and
operations of organizations —
Requirements and guidelines**

*Biodiversité — Prise en compte de la biodiversité dans la
stratégie et le fonctionnement des organisations — Exigences et
lignes directrices*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 331, *Biodiversity*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Biodiversity is a critical component to support life on earth. It underpins global nutrition and food security, buffers against disease, provides livelihoods, and has its inherent value. It is essential to ecosystem health, giving us protection from disasters, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing clean air, clean water and healthy soil. It is also critical to business: an estimated USD 44 trillion of the world's gross domestic product is highly or moderately dependent on nature.^[1] The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)^[2] has provided a historic agreement for society consistent with halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving full recovery of nature by 2050. Target 15 of the GBF calls for large and transnational companies and financial institutions to monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including value chains and portfolios. These actions are aimed at progressively avoiding and reducing adverse impacts on biodiversity, increasing benefits and opportunities, reducing biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promoting actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production. To meet the objectives of this framework, a standardized approach is needed.

The aim of this document is to help organizations to include biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable use into their business, social and environmental strategies and practices. This document is intended for all types of organizations, whatever their size or nature, and either at the landscape level (production site, regional presence, commercial zone, farm, etc.) or organizational level (industrial corporation, local authority, etc.).

This document provides decision-making support that enables any organization to assess its biodiversity dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities, and to define, implement and monitor an action plan. This allows added value for both the organization itself and its interested parties. Indeed, the organization, through the individual behaviours of different actors within it, can create sustainable practices and concretely help to bring about necessary systemic changes.

As the steps of the biodiversity approach are iterative, organizations will typically move back and forth through various stages described in this document.

This document is expected to be used in conjunction with other relevant standards concerning ecological engineering, landscape-level approaches (e.g. ISO 37101^[3]), or social responsibility (e.g. ISO 26000^[4]).

The biodiversity approach proposed in this document is intended to be implemented on a stand-alone basis or can be used in conjunction with an environmental management system (e.g. ISO 14001^[5]) or a comprehensive social responsibility approach (e.g. ISO 26000^[4]), regarding risks and opportunities to consider or actions to implement.

[Figure 1](#) provides an outline of the structure of this document and the connection between its various components.

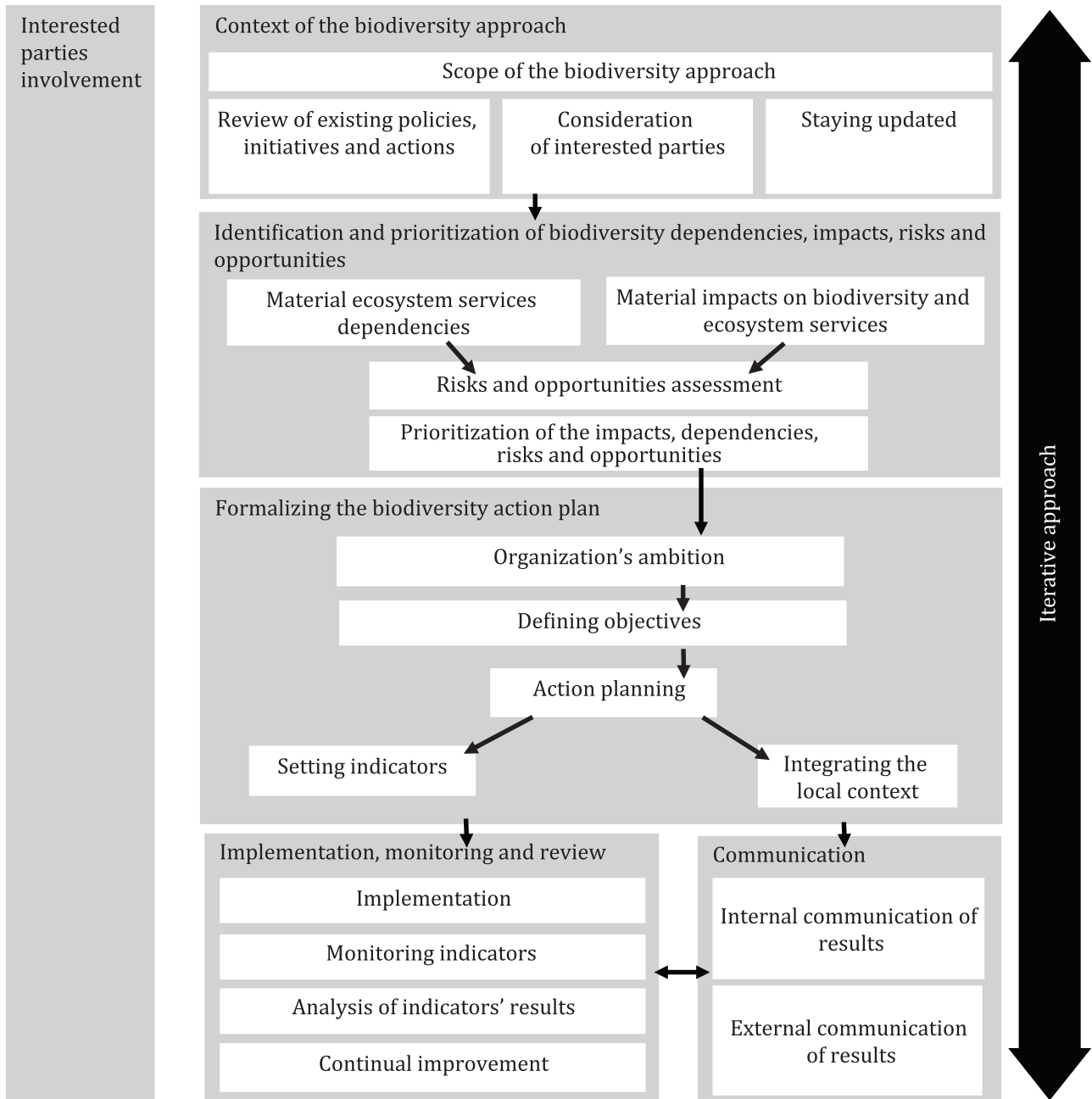


Figure 1 — Outline of this document

Biodiversity — Considering biodiversity in the strategy and operations of organizations — Requirements and guidelines

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and guidelines for organizations to consider biodiversity in their strategies and operations, thereby adopting a biodiversity approach.

It is applicable to any type of organization, irrespective of its size or nature (e.g. large groups, public institutions, local authorities, mid-cap companies, associations, micro-structures, single-member companies), sector, level of development and the extent to which it includes biodiversity protection in its activities.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Terms specific to biodiversity

3.1.1

biodiversity

biological diversity

variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species, and within and between *ecosystems* (3.1.4)

Note 1 to entry: The definition of the term biodiversity is broad and open to interpretation and different uses. In the context of this document, biodiversity is used in a way that emphasizes its ecological function.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.8.22, modified — note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.1.2

conservation

management to maintain *biodiversity* (3.1.1)

3.1.3

critical habitat

area with high *biodiversity* (3.1.1) value

Note 1 to entry: critical habitats can include:

- habitats of significant importance to one or several critically endangered or endangered species;
- habitats of significant importance to one or several endemic or restricted-range species;