

## Business and biodiversity: Opportunities and challenges



### Business and biodiversity: the relationships

#### Business activities impact upon biodiversity

...through ecosystem disruption  
...through the expansion of business operations which often depends on the use of abandoned and degraded land or on the conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats

#### Business activities are vulnerable as they rely upon biodiversity

...for genetic diversity to provide system resilience to pest and climatic events  
...for enhanced ecosystem services from species diversity and abundance  
...for high quantity and quality crop harvests delivered by wild pollination

#### External forces are putting pressure on biodiversity resources

...as competing user demands and interests increase  
...as human populations rise and consumption trends change  
...as the consequences of climate change increase pressures on biodiversity stocks

### What are the biodiversity-related challenges for business?

**Land tenure rights, governance and security are uncertain:** *The lack of or absentee ownership means fragmented responsibility and undermines long-term visions, reducing opportunities to manage price volatility in the supply chain.*

**There is a lack of data demonstrating the links between wild nature and certain commodities:** *Although biodiversity research and knowledge around species abundance and distribution is growing, much research is still needed around the interactions between wild nature and certain commodities.*

**There is a lack of simplified biodiversity metrics:** *Businesses require metrics which are credible, practical to use, easy to understand and relevant of their industry.*

**Rather than allowing biodiversity risks to manifest themselves in mainstream business, business leaders can take early steps to secure biodiversity, and seize opportunities that enable them to remain at the forefront of their sector. The benefits of such action can include decreased costs from the reduced need of inputs to counter biodiversity degradation and brand enhancement from the implementation of conservation.**

### What are the biodiversity-related opportunities for business?



**Olam:** Reconciling wild nature with Gabon's palm and rubber large-scale plantations through a process of robust due diligence.

Olam's work around land has reduced the allocation of agronomically unsuitable, high conservation value or high carbon stock lands.



**Mondi:** Creating ecological networks that include quality set-aside land, mostly in the form of corridors within South African production landscapes. These networks are used as a mitigation solution and maintain the ecosystem's hydrological processes as well as the indigenous biota.

Establishing ecological networks that extend the size of protected areas, maximise on biodiversity conservation and maintain ecosystem services has enabled Mondi to secure the landscapes and ecosystems its business activities depend upon.



**Asda:** Reforesting large areas with over 60 species of native trees and creating connections between 600 hectares of Costa Rican forest.

Collaboration through a biodiversity partnership working with local businesses, schools, communities, scientist and government institutions helps protect and preserve Costa Rica's biodiversity for healthy ecosystems and enhance Asda's corporate responsibility reputation.

**Read the entire [Doing Business with Nature](http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/doing-business-with-nature) report at [www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap](http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/natcap)**

