Sustainable Finance & Biodiversity: State of Play, Challenges and Solutions

A conference organized by the German Government’s Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee

January 31 & February 1, 2024, Berlin

Hosted by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

It has become increasingly clear over the last few years that biodiversity loss is one of the major threats to the global economy and ultimately, human survival. Scientific evidence tells us that about 25% of all species are under threat of extinction and biodiversity is declining faster today than at any time in human history. While over 50% of the global GDP depends on Nature’s services, the main drivers of biodiversity loss are directly linked to human economic activities: changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution, and invasion of alien species.

To combat this threatening trend, all economic players have their contribution to make. Corporates need to better understand their interaction with nature; financial institutions can contribute through financing concrete solutions and need to understand and measure their financed impacts; governments can set the scene and guide economic players towards transparency and due diligence. A variety of initiatives have seen the light of day over the past years (UN, Central Banks, European Commission and the private sector), aiming at better understanding the inter-dependencies between the economy and nature’s services, measuring impact and identifying concrete solutions to better protect biodiversity on a local, regional and global scale to achieve this goal.

The German Government’s Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee (SFB) is hosting a major conference bringing together a variety of these institutions to share their experience with biodiversity related topics. Corporates, financial institutions, regulators, NGOs, data providers and academics will come together on January 31 and February 1, 2024, in Berlin, to take stock of what has already been achieved by some, what would be feasible already today and what shall be next steps in tackling the global biodiversity challenge with the means of sustainable finance.
AGENDA

Day 1 // January 31, 13:00 – 18:00

- Welcome by Silke Stremlau, Chairwoman of SFB
- Keynote Speech by Steffi Lemke, German Federal Minister for the Environment
- Keynote Speech by Thomas Graner, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
- Keynote Speech by Simon Zadek, NatureFinance

  - Real Economy: What are the state of play, good practice and remaining key challenges for the real economy to make nature conservation part of their business models?
    - Moderation by Katarin Wagner (Econsense)
    - Introductory presentations by Kerstin Lopatta (University of Hamburg), Katarin Wagner (Econsense) & Eva Zabey (Business For Nature)
    - Panel discussion (Confirmed Speakers: Katrin Böhning-Gaese, Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung, Miriam Van Gohl, SBTN, Philipp Wagnitz, Lidl Stiftung)

  - Financial Institutions: What is the state-of-play, what are key challenges and how can they be overcome?
    - Moderation by Verena Menne (FNG, Permanent Observer in the Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee)
    - Introductory presentation by Thomas Viegas (TNFD)
    - Panel discussion (Confirmed Speakers: Mathilde Dufour, Mirova, Thomas Viegas, TNFD, Jürgen Kern, KFW, Paolo Krischak, Deutsche Bundesbank)

Day 2 // February 1, 8:30 – 13:00

- Fireside Chat with Pavan Sukhdev, GIST Impact and Christian Heller, Co-Chair of SFB

- The Data Challenges: What data is needed for which use case; What solutions are already feasible?
  - Moderation by Julia Haake (EthiFinance, Member of SFB)
  - Introductory presentation by Susanne Schmitt, Nature+Futures
  - Panel discussion (Confirmed Speakers: Matthieu Maurin, Iceberg Data Lab, Sven Kaumanns, Federal Statistical Office, Chiara Colesanti Senni, University of Zurich, Asa Mossberg, AP2)

- Regulation: How can regulators help guide us towards a nature-positive economy?
  - Moderation and Introductory presentation by Ingmar Jürgens (Climate & Company, Permanent Observer to SFB)
  - Panel discussion (Confirmed Speakers: Elisa Famery, DG Trésor, la France; Sven Gentner, DG FISMA, European Commission; Esther Wandel, German Ministry of Finance)

- Conclusion and Outlook