

**INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS**

**MONITORING BIODIVERSITY IN A RETAILER SUPPLY CHAIN**

**Biodiversity and food systems**

Biodiversity is essential to human life on Earth and is the foundation of the global economy. The World Economic Forum estimates that 44 trillion USD of value generation, representing more than 50% of global GDP, is dependent on nature, biodiversity and the services it supports.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Yet the evidence is unequivocal – nature is being changed and destroyed by us at an unprecedented rate. The 2020 global Living Planet Index shows an average 68% fall in populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016.

The most important direct driver of biodiversity loss in terrestrial systems in the last several decades has been land-use change, primarily the conversion of pristine native habitats into agricultural systems to feed a growing population. Indeed, food systems are the largest driver of deforestation and habitat conversion[[2]](#footnote-3), water use[[3]](#footnote-4), biodiversity loss[[4]](#footnote-5), soil degradation, as well as being responsible for more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions[[5]](#footnote-6). Our food production system is also highly dependent on nature. We require healthy soils, stable weather patterns and abundant pollinators to continue to continue to feed a growing global population.

It has become clear that the loss of biodiversity threatens the sustainability of the food production system which underpins the business models of food businesses.

**Tesco’s nature strategy**

Against this background, Tesco is developing its own nature strategy to understand and mitigate biodiversity risks and dependencies within its supply chain.

Tesco is using WWF’s Biodiversity Risk Filter (BRF) to inform Step 1 (Assess) and Step 2 (Interpret and Prioritise) of the Science-based Targets for Nature (SBTn) framework and the LEAP (Locate, Evaluate, Assess, Prioritise) process through the Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures. Through the BRF, Tesco gaining the tools to understand its direct risks and dependencies on nature within the supply chains for which it has sufficient data.

The BRF provides spatially explicit information on physical risks (reliance on declining ecosystem services and/or contribution to pressures on biodiversity in a sourcing landscape) and reputational risks (where stakeholders and local communities perceive that business is not being conducted in a responsible way with respect to biodiversity). This information can help to prioritise certain supply chains or landscapes where interventions should be focussed.

Once key areas are prioritised under the SBTn framework, the next step is to measure and monitor the state of biodiversity in prioritised areas. This requires more locally specific data on biodiversity in Tesco’s sourcing areas than can be provided by the global datasets that the BRF is based on.

**PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The WWF-Tesco partnership is looking to commission a consultant / subject matter expert / organisation, or consortium, to conduct research and advise on a methodology for baselining and monitoring biodiversity in Tesco’s supply chain.

This project should ideally enable Tesco to comply with at a minimum, current and emerging guidance on Science-Based Targets for Nature, the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures and relevant biodiversity policy developments, for example, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (for England only).

The emphasis of the findings and outcomes should be on scalability across a retailer supply chain.

**Step 1 – rapid review of available biodiversity data and frameworks**

As a first step the research should map out available sources of data and modelling that could inform Tesco’s biodiversity impacts at a local level, as well as any key data gaps. This step should also involve engaging with Tesco to understand what data they already have through tools like the BRF and certifications like LEAF Marque.

The research should then highlight existing frameworks for biodiversity measurement, reporting and credits – for example, the Wallacea Trust methodology for quantifying biodiversity improvements or avoided loss[[6]](#footnote-7) - and assess their relevance to Tesco’s supply chain and nature strategy.

This step should cover the pros and cons of collecting data at a regional vs a farm level for a retailer.

**Step 2 – develop biodiversity monitoring approaches for Tesco**

Using this background assessment and engagement with Tesco to determine priority sourcing regions, the research should set out different approaches for Tesco to measure and monitor biodiversity in (a) a priority landscape; and (b) a selected supply chain including:

1. the minimum set of biodiversity metrics for Tesco to comply with SBTn / TNFD (based on currently available information), the available tools, technologies and/or organisations that could be engaged to collect data on these metrics, and likely cost.
2. An enhanced set of biodiversity metrics (with a rationale for why these are included) including available tools, technologies and/or companies that could be engaged to support this process, and likely cost.

These recommended approaches should include working with regional partners where relevant, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of primary data collection on biodiversity.

The available data and recommended approaches may vary depending on the specific supply chain or geographic location but should aim to be scalable as far as possible.

This step may involve engaging with SBTn personnel and the wider WWF network where relevant.

**Step 3 – working through approaches**

Subject to the SBTn biodiversity guidance being available, the project should work with Tesco (and regional partners where relevant) to conduct baseline assessments of biodiversity in prioritised locations in line with the approaches defined in step 2. This should use existing data where available but could also include primary data collection.

Conducting this step will depend on the consultants/ experts / consortium that submit proposals having relevant expertise and/or access to necessary tools and technologies to conduct the chosen approach to biodiversity baselining. Alternatively, the proposal could set out an approach to engaging a third party to conduct the baselining once a recommended approach has been agreed.

While the exact expenses associated with this step will depend on Step 2 and agreement with WWF and Tesco, proposals should set out an estimated cost of using relevant data and tools to conduct baseline assessments and the estimated number of landscapes / regions.

**KEY OUTPUTS:**

A comprehensive report (ideally no more than 40 pages) in word and pdf format containing key findings of step 1 and 2. The report should include infographics where relevant. Any additional information beyond the 40 pages can be included in separate appendices or documents. The proposal should identify if the report can be designed in house and the associated cost.

A shorter public report (no more than 15 pages) sharing general findings and a biodiversity monitoring framework that could be used by other supply chain actors (particularly retailers). The proposal should identify if the report can be designed in house and the associated cost.

Shareable biodiversity data in relation to Tesco’s supply chains that can be used to comply with SBTn (if Step 3 is conducted).

A presentation of the findings internally to the WWF/Tesco partnership team.

**TIMELINE**

**Deadline for proposals:** 30 June

**Review bids:** by 3 July

**Kick off meeting:** w/c 10 July

**Project deadline\*:** mid-October

*\*Note this is a hard deadline that must be met to comply with funding requirements. Proposals must be realistic in terms of the timelines and work that can be completed by mid-October, including Step 3.*

**BUDGET**

The budget for this work is £65,000-70,000 **including VAT**.

**SUBMITTING PROPOSALS**

We welcome proposals from individual organisations or a consortium. Proposals will be assessed on:

* Background / experience of the consultant / team
* Fit to brief
* Credible methodology
* Value for money

Proposals and questions should be sent to Josephine Cutfield, Production Policy Advisor [jcutfield@wwf.org.uk](mailto:jcutfield@wwf.org.uk) and Adam Brown @abrown@wwf.org.uk

We recommend that proposals are limited to eight sides in length. In your proposal, please include the following:

* A method statement to explain your proposed approach to carrying out the work.
* A brief project plan, showing key milestones and any interdependencies.
* Details about similar projects you have undertaken or your relevant experience in this field, including the experience of individuals on the project team.
* A fee proposal including resource allocations and charging rates for all individuals, and any anticipated expenses including travel.
* Completion of the WWF sustainable procurement questionnaire.

**Contracting with WWF-UK:**

It is our requirement that an appointed external partner adopts our standards terms and conditions for engaging with us*. These are included within the tender documents.* *Please confirm you are willing to accept these terms. Should you have any amends you need to make, these will need to be put in a word document and submitted for approval by the WWF-UK legal team.*

WWF-UK asks all suppliers to comply with the Supplier Code of Conduct and WWF-UK 3rd Party Expenses Policy. *Both documents are enclosed within the tender pack. Please confirm your acceptance of both.*

All contracted suppliers are required to register on Panda Purchasing (WWF-UK’s PO and invoice system). *Should you be successful in your bid, please confirm you will be willing to register on the system.*

Thank you for expressing an interest in working with and supporting WWF-UK with this important piece of work.  We look forward to receiving your response.

**APPENDIX**

**RELEVANT WWF SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter: [WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter](https://riskfilter.org/biodiversity/home)

WWF Water Risk Filter: [WWF Water Risk Filter](https://riskfilter.org/water/home)

SBTN Biodiversity Short Paper: [Biodiversity Short Paper\_2023.docx (sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org)](https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Technical-Guidance-2023-Biodiversity-Overview.pdf)

SBTN resources: [Resources – Science Based Targets Network](https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/resources/)

1. Herweijer, C., Evison, W., Mariam, S., Khatri, A., Albani, M., Semov, A., Long, E. (2020). Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy. World Economic Forum, in collaboration with PwC [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. FAO and UNEP (2020). The State of the World’s Forests 2020. Forests, biodiversity and people. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8642en [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Hoekstra, Arjen Y., and Mesfin M. Mekonnen. 'The Water Footprint of Humanity.' Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109, no. 9 (February 28, 2012): 3232–37. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1109936109 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Tilman, D., Clark, M., Williams, D. R., Kimmel, K., Polasky, S., & Packer, C. (2017). Future threats to biodiversity and pathways to their prevention. Nature, 546(7656), 73–81. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature22900 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. FAO and ITPS (2015). Status of the World’s Soil Resources (SWSR) – Main Report. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, Rome, Italy. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [Biodiversity Credits | Replanet](https://www.replanet.org.uk/what-are-biodiversity-credits/) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)