

PRESS RELEASE

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Sweco Report: Biodiversity could unlock trillions in business value – but remains overlooked as an area of financial materiality

As companies' sustainability efforts begin to move beyond carbon reduction, a new report from Sweco highlights the untapped business potential of protecting and restoring nature. Despite the growing risk of biodiversity loss, only 16% of Europe's 50 largest manufacturing and energy companies currently recognise biodiversity as financially material. The report calls on business leaders to integrate biodiversity into core operations – both to manage risks and to unlock new growth opportunities.

Estimates show that globally over €50 trillion in annual economic activity is moderately or highly dependent on nature* and the World Economic Forum ranks biodiversity loss among the top global risks in the next decade**. Key industries – from mining and forestry to infrastructure and energy – are directly dependent on healthy ecosystems. Wetlands and rivers, for example, support critical services such as transport, water supply and cooling for power generation.

In a [new report](#), Sweco has analysed the 50 largest European manufacturing and energy companies by revenue. While 82% consider biodiversity a material issue in terms of environmental impact, only 16% view it as financially material.

“Sweco’s analysis shows that while most of the companies acknowledge biodiversity as a material issue from an environmental impact perspective, only a small minority link it directly to financial performance. This means that increasing biodiversity entails untapped business value for companies– as estimates show that nature-positive business models could generate up to €10 trillion in new value, and integrating biodiversity and climate strategies could help create 395 million jobs by 2030***,” **says Piia Pessala, Executive Director in biodiversity at Sweco and one of the authors of the report.**

Sweco’s report outlines a path for businesses to future-proof operations through biodiversity. It recommends mapping value chains, measuring ecological impact and collaborating across sectors. By highlighting the risks of inaction and the opportunities presented by nature-positive investment – including tools like sustainability-linked bonds and nature impact funds – the report makes a strong case for embedding biodiversity into core strategy to gain competitive and long-term value.

“In addition to conscious clients, biodiversity initiatives can attract responsible investors who may view any failure to take biodiversity into consideration as a business risk. Sweco recommends that European business leaders start treating biodiversity as fundamental to their strategy, just as they have with climate,” **says Piia Pessala.**

Method

Sweco analysed how the 50 largest European manufacturing and energy companies (by

revenue) are addressing biodiversity. The analysis was based on the companies' 2024 sustainability and annual reports, with a focus on their double materiality assessments (DMAs) and EU Taxonomy disclosures. To support the reporting analysis, Sweco also used the [ENCORE](#) tool (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure), developed by the UN Environment Programme and the Natural Capital Finance Alliance, to assess the sectors' biodiversity impacts and dependencies.

* Evison, W., Low, L.P. and O'Brien, D. (2023) [Managing nature risks: From understanding to action](#)

** World Economic Forum. (2025). [The Global Risks Report 2025](#). World Economic Forum

*** World Economic Forum (2020) [New Nature Economy Report II The Future of Nature and Business](#)

About Urban Insight by Sweco

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