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# Nature Offering for Member Banks

February 2024



As the world prepares for [CBD COP 16](#), expected to take place in Colombia in October 2024, UNEP FI is committed to support its 350+ member banks on nature action. We focus on rapidly building capacity and knowledge on key nature topics, co-creating practical guidance, and providing a platform for peer sharing and learning.

Over a third of UNEP FI's banking members are already engaging with our nature-related initiatives and we warmly encourage the rest of the membership to join their peers. For those interested in participating in or learning more about any of these activities, please contact our Nature and Banking focal point [Oualid Rokneddine](#).

## Capacity building programs and peer-learning community

These programmes are designed to deepen member banks' comprehension of nature-related issues and enhance their capacity through interactive workshops and peer-learning sessions. They offer a unique opportunity to collaborate, learn from peers, and accelerate your bank's nature action journey.

- **UNEP FI Risk Centre—Nature-related risk and TNFD Implementation Support (starting in Q2):** This program is part of the new UNEP FI Risk [Centre](#) covering integrated climate and nature-related risks and building on the previous TCFD and TNFD pilots. It provides banks with tailored assistance in assessing and managing nature-related risks, focusing on the implementation of the TNFD's LEAP Approach. Deep-dive topics, including data and tools, risk quantification assessments, nature scenarios or nature-related opportunities, should also be covered in Q3. Express your interest [here](#)—information sessions for members will take place in March.
- **PRB Nature Regional Capacity Building Program (starting in Q2):** These workshops are practical, hands-on sessions offering banks regional insights and support in applying the PRB Nature [Guidance](#). They will cover topics such as strategy, governance, policies and nature-related finance.
- **PRB Nature Community (ongoing):** This program serves as an interactive platform for PRB banks to engage in peer learning. It allows members to share their experiences and best practices in addressing nature-related challenges and opportunities, creating a rich collective growth and learning environment. The community's sessions are convened every two months. Access the members' online space [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.
- **ENCORE Capacity Building:** ENCORE is updating its knowledge base and the [ENCORE partnership](#) will provide an education series and technical assistance on using ENCORE for nature-related risk analysis and TNFD aligned reporting for financial institutions in Colombia, Peru, South Africa and Indonesia. Contact the Secretariat if your bank is headquartered in one of these countries.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are a UNEP FI member, please contact [Oualid Rokneddine](#) to request the password.

## Nature and nature-related working groups

These UN-convened working groups provide a platform for member banks and knowledge partners to co-develop knowledge products (e.g., guidance, report, and tool). Join these working groups if your bank is interested in developing practical guidance to support the banking sector in addressing nature loss.

- **PRB Nature Working Group (resuming in Q2):** Following the publication of the [PRB Nature Guidance](#), this working group will continue its work, focusing on developing a nature *impact roadmap* and sector-specific action guidance.
- **PRB Pollution Working Group (starting in Q2):** This group will develop a pioneering Pollution Guidance to assist banks in tackling pollution, in line with GBF Target 7.
- **PRB Circular Economy and Nature-Climate Nexus Working Group (ongoing):** This working group is creating guidance on how the banking sector can incorporate in their action plans the circular economy as an enabler to meet targets in other impact areas, including climate and nature.

## Online training

Our online training courses are tailored to equip member banks with the latest scientific knowledge and practical skills needed to navigate nature-related issues. These interactive courses are designed to empower your team with in-depth knowledge and actionable strategies to integrate nature considerations into banking practices.

- **PRB Academy courses on nature (from Q2):** The PRB [Academy](#) will introduce two new interactive online modules designed to provide introductory and in-depth knowledge and practical skills relevant to nature in banking.
- **Deforestation-related risks and opportunities (from Q2):** UNEP's Climate Finance [Unit](#) offers dedicated training to support UNEP FI member banks in learning practical methodologies and tools for deforestation-related risk and opportunities assessment and management through four interactive online sessions.

## Individual support on target setting

- PRB Banks planning to set nature-related targets can book 'office hours' with UNEP FI's nature experts for personalised support and feedback.

## Regional and thematic initiatives

In addition to the global activities listed above, UNEP FI and its partners provide a wide range of opportunities to deep-dive into regional, thematic initiatives and/or specific nature-related opportunities.

- **Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative:** A leadership [community](#) working to accelerate the transition towards sustainable use of the world's ocean, seas and marine resources by developing practical actions and outputs for insurers, lenders and investors and support the implementation of the [Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles](#).
- **Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA):** The [BCA](#) brings together scientists, academics, conservation practitioners, and standard setters, with direct links to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, supporting the development of a high-level, science-based principles framework for a voluntary biodiversity credit market. The Alliance provides guidance and encourages best practices for market participants. Join the [BCA forum](#) to participate in the discussion!
- **Finance Leadership Group on Plastic:** This leadership core [group](#) of banks and insurers with total assets of USD 9.8 trillion convened by UNEP FI and sponsored by the Minderoo Foundation is working towards ending plastic pollution by supporting the development of the international legally binding instrument and building readiness across the global finance sector to respond to the future framework.
- **Good Food Finance Network's High Ambition Group:** This leadership [initiative is](#) composed of public and private financial institutions working on targets for areas such as labour conditions, food security, nutrition, nature and biodiversity dependencies and impacts, food loss and waste, and regenerative and climate-smart agriculture.
- **Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco (IFACC):** IFACC's [initiative](#) aims to accelerate lending and investment for climate-friendly beef and soy production models in the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco. Get in touch if your bank wants to expand innovative finance for deforestation/conversion-free beef and soy in these regions.
- **Upcoming Workstreams on Freshwater:** UNEP FI is building a new workstream focusing on freshwater and finance. Interested members can already express interest in being part of a consultation process.

## Getting involved in the CBD COP 16

The world is preparing for [CBD COP 16](#), the first biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022. Countries are expected to show the alignment of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the GBF, and, once again, finance will play a crucial role in discussions. UNEP FI will offer its members opportunities to get involved in the preparations for this pivotal multilateral gathering, reinforcing the importance of financial sector involvement in this critical biodiversity multilateral process. Stay tuned for more details on how to get involved!



## Access recent UNEP FI guidance and resources on nature:

- [PRB Nature Guidance](#): This guidance provides a comprehensive framework for banks to take actions and set targets in line with the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and includes 18 case studies on existing practices from PRB banks.
- [Unboxing Nature-Related Risks](#): This report presents the results of an extensive global pilot testing led by UNEP FI to test the draft TNFD Framework and includes practical case studies from financial institutions that assessed the applicability of the draft TNFD framework for selected high-impact sectors. To read more about UNEP FI's second cohort of deep-dive pilots conducted between May and June 2023, assessing climate-nature integrated reporting and nature scenarios, [access it here](#).
- [Setting Sail: Target setting in the Sustainable Blue Economy](#): Through the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative's Seafood Finance Working Group, co-convened with WWF, UNEP FI has developed this manual to support financial institutions in implementing the [Turning the Tide](#) and [Diving Deep](#) sector guidance, and setting targets for the Sustainable Blue Economy.
- [Accountability for Nature: Comparison of Nature-related Assessment and Disclosure Frameworks and Standards](#): This report, co-authored by UNEP-WCMC and UNEP FI, provides an overview of the key methodological and conceptual trends among the private sector assessment and disclosure approaches on nature-related issues. It provides comparative research on seven leading standards, frameworks and systems for assessment and disclosure on nature-related issues.
- [Bonds to Finance the Sustainable Blue Economy: A practitioner's guide](#): This guidance, developed by the IFC, UNEP FI, ICMA, UN Global Compact and the ABD, provides market participants with clear criteria, practices, and examples for "blue bond" lending and issuances.
- [Driving Finance for Sustainable Food Systems: A Roadmap to Implementation for Financial Institutions and Policy Makers](#): This report provides guidance on how financial institutions can support sustainable food systems through impact management, risk mitigation, and financial innovation.
- [Investing with Nature: Exploring Investment Opportunities Across Ecosystem](#): This webinar series helps financial institutions discover practical ways to invest in Nature-based solutions across key ecosystems.

Access the UNEP FI Nature publication page [here](#) for additional guidance materials and research on nature.

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UNEP Finance Initiative brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that collectively catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies. For more than 30 years the initiative has been connecting the UN with financial institutions from around the world to shape the sustainable finance agenda. We've established the world's foremost sustainability frameworks that help the finance industry address global environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges.

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