

Business Planning for Biodiversity

A recent report by IPBES, also known as the United Nations biodiversity panel, an independent body which plays a similar role marshalling expert knowledge related to biodiversity that the IPCC – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – does in the climate domain.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by numerous countries to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It operates on the principle that there are various ways companies can use biodiversity in a sustainable way.

It's akin to the idea of Integrated Thinking under which companies can make choices that support economic growth as well as sustainability by managing their corporate strategy.

The IPBES reports that, In 2023, public and private initiatives around the world channelled a combined US\$220-billion toward biological conservation.

In a February news briefing, IPBES experts laid out their findings at a news briefing on Monday after a week-long meeting of the organization in Manchester, Britain. They said their aim is to “provide a road map that business leaders and policy-makers can use to instill sustainable practices throughout the economy and prevent the degradation of ecosystems that imperils everyone – including companies.”

“The current economic system and financial system that we have is not set up to maintain or to have sustainability of biodiversity, which then also is leading to unsustainability of business itself,” said Stephen Polasky, a co-chair of the report and a professor of environmental economics at the University of Minnesota. The new report examines the issues in a comprehensive way, including legal, financial, cultural, technological and educational avenues for change. See <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/science/article-un-report-aims-to-map-out-ways-to-make-business-and-biodiversity-both/> for more. Also the IPBES website is worth checking at <https://www.ipbes.net/>.