

Statement on Biodiversity



The term "biodiversity" denotes the variety of life and its processes. It includes the diversity of living organisms, the differences between them, and the ecosystems and communities in which they exist. Both ecosystems and the biodiversity contained within them provide essential services to humankind, supplying food and medicines, filtering pollution and storing CO₂, abating the impacts of storms and floods, regenerating soils and recycling nutrients.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), humanity has already caused the loss of more than 80% of all wild mammals and 50% of all plants, with the current unprecedented rate of extinction still accelerating. As the WEF concludes, it is time "for a radical reset of humanity's relationship with nature."¹ To match this ambition, the United Nations (UN) has labelled the decade 2021-2030 as the "Decade on Ecosystem Restoration".² Parallel efforts under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) include the ongoing preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework towards the 2050 vision, "Living in Harmony with Nature".³

In order for a "reset of humanity's relationship with nature" to succeed, the methods used to determine the value of this natural capital need to be further developed and widely applied. As a financial institution, Credit Suisse believes that such valuation methods are important to adequately assess the risks and returns of the economic activities and investments that are both dependent on those services and that can, in turn, impact their viability. We are committed to playing our part in addressing biodiversity loss through our role as an intermediary between the economy, the environment and society.

- We recognize the need to protect the range of habitats and species on Earth and to safeguard the natural ecological processes and the livelihoods they support.
- As a trusted financial partner, we are committed to helping our clients understand the risks and seize opportunities associated with the conscientious management of natural capital and the conservation of biodiversity.
- As a responsible corporate citizen, we endeavor to support multi-stakeholder initiatives that respect and protect biodiversity, including the emerging Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

Our commitments as a financial institution to address biodiversity loss could be made more effective by the presence of a stable and strong regulatory framework. To this end, we acknowledge and generally support emerging efforts being made by inter-governmental organizations to slow, stop and reverse ecological degradation.

I. Our principles

Our long-term success is dependent on managing risks and opportunities, such as those related to ecosystem restoration, in a disciplined and intelligent way. Our success is also dependent on ensuring that we have a responsible approach towards the way we run our business. This belief is anchored in our [Code of Conduct](#) and our Statements on [Sustainability](#), on [Climate Change](#) and on [Human Rights](#).

We embrace selected voluntary initiatives to help define our principles, guide our activities and benchmark our performance. These include our commitments under the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative ([UNEP FI](#)), the [UN Global Compact](#) and the [Equator Principles](#). We also participate in a number of nature-related initiatives that help to underline our status as a responsible and resilient business (see “Our approach” section). Furthermore, Credit Suisse has been a thought leader on topics directly relevant to biodiversity for several years, by contributing research and publications on themes such as conservation finance, capacity building, alternative supply chains and the circular economy.

The global approach to biodiversity is evolving, as is the role that financial institutions can play. Our approach will develop in conjunction with the global response. Credit Suisse will be guided by its principles in discharging these responsibilities and in fostering an environment for finance to flow where it can be most effective in efforts to slow and ultimately reverse the threats to biodiversity.

II. Our approach

The Executive Board is the most senior management body of the Group and is responsible for the Group's day-to-day operational management under the leadership of the CEO. A bank-wide Sustainability Leadership Committee, chaired by the CEO of the Sustainability, Research and Investment Solutions (SRI) function, and the Chief Sustainability Officer, drives and executes our sustainability strategy, including biodiversity. The Position & Client Risk (PCR) cycle of the Capital Allocation & Risk Management Committee (CARMC) oversees the management of reputational and sustainability risk, which would include risks related to biodiversity.

At Board of Directors (BoD) level, a dedicated Board Sustainability Leader chairs the Sustainability Advisory Committee, which will assist the Board, in an advisory capacity, in fulfilling its oversight duties in respect to the development and execution of the Group's sustainability strategy and targets. Furthermore, the Risk Committee of the BoD periodically reviews relevant aspects of Credit Suisse's risk and sustainability framework.

Our approach distinguishes three levels at which our activities may impact, or be impacted by, biodiversity loss:

- A) Managing the risks that arise from biodiversity loss as well as the impacts to biodiversity that may arise from our role as a financial services provider
- B) Facilitating the conscientious management of biodiversity
- C) Reducing the footprint of our operations

We maintain dialogue and engagement with key external stakeholders to gain insights that ensure our approach remains relevant and effective, and also to share good practice within the financial services sector.

A) Managing risks

At Credit Suisse, we view the protection of biodiversity as an integral part of our sustainability commitments. Where applicable, biodiversity-related issues are considered in Credit Suisse's risk management processes and we cover these topics in our sector-specific policies and guidelines to govern the responsible provision of financial services to clients. For example, as a rule, Credit Suisse will not finance or provide advice on activities undertaken by in-scope businesses within areas of High Conservation Value (HCV) that are subject to statutory local, national or international Protected Area designation, or areas that are undesignated but recognized by the international scientific community as having HCVs.

Our policies and guidelines also take into account standards developed by international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank. We apply the Equator Principles to relevant transactions, as part of our efforts to ensure that any associated environmental and social risks are managed in line with the International Finance Corporation's Environmental and Social Performance Standards (PS), and specifically PS6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

Our risk management framework incorporates an assessment of whether a transaction or client relationship under review is in line with our sector policies, relevant industry standards and good practice. We regularly review our sector policies and guidelines to reflect the latest developments and challenges.

We are also cognizant of the potential effects of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss on our activities as a provider of financial services. The WEF estimates that USD 44 trillion of economic value generation is moderately or highly dependent on nature, while nature-related risks can rapidly affect the economy.¹

B) Facilitating opportunities

We engage with stakeholders on defining ways for the financial industry to contribute to conserving and restoring biodiversity and the world's natural habitats. The UN reports that the USD 1 trillion required to restore 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030 would generate USD 9 trillion in ecosystem services, such as improved soil productivity and water retention, and reduced erosion and greenhouse gas emissions, while also contributing to poverty alleviation.²

In 2016, Credit Suisse became a founding partner of the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation ([CPIC](#)), while we have hosted an annual Conservation Finance Investor Conference since 2014. Key drivers behind these initiatives, informed by research conducted by Credit Suisse and other partners, were the recognition that both substantial private sector investment in natural capital and a collaborative stakeholder effort are required.

Credit Suisse has been active in the conservation finance space for several years, developing and supporting the creation of new, long-term and diversified sources of revenue, including mobilizing private capital to address biodiversity loss and support terrestrial and marine habitat conservation. We endeavor to expand our product offering in this space, also emphasizing initiatives related to the so-called "blue economy".

C) Reducing our footprint

We recognize the importance of and are committed to minimizing our adverse impacts on biodiversity and natural capital:

- We seek to implement opportunities for optimal materials selection and consumption, as well as waste minimization and recycling throughout the lifecycle of our real estate projects, with reference to credible green building standards.
- Examples of our contribution to protecting biodiversity through our own operations include our Uetlihof campus in Zurich and our Bocken conference center near Zurich, which have both been certified by the Swiss foundation for nature and economy ("Stiftung für Natur und Wirtschaft") in recognition of their ecologically-conscious design of the natural surroundings.
- Through the activities of our global sustainability networks, we inform our employees and other stakeholders of how they can reduce their materials consumption at work and at home.
- Our operational environmental objectives for the year 2025 are intended to help reduce the impact on climate change, and therefore also contribute to the protection of biodiversity. Our 2025 objectives include a 75% reduction in carbon emissions from operations compared to 2010, a 10% reduction in paper consumption per employee compared to 2018, and ensuring that 100% of paper purchases carry an appropriate environmental label.
- We maintain our commitment to operational carbon neutrality, including through supporting reforestation projects.

III. Communication, reporting and review

This Statement will be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains accurate and relevant.

We will inform about activities related to biodiversity in managing risks, facilitating opportunities, and reducing our footprint in our annual sustainability reporting.

Important information

This material does not purport to contain all of the information that you may wish to consider. This material is not to be relied upon as such or used in substitution for the exercise of independent judgment.

The information provided is not intended to constitute any kind of basis on which to make an investment, divestment or retention decision. Credit Suisse recommends that any person potentially interested in the elements described in this document shall seek to obtain relevant information and advice (including but not limited to risks) prior to taking any investment decision.

This document contains forward-looking statements that involve inherent risks and uncertainties, and we might not be able to achieve the predictions, forecasts, projections and other outcomes we describe or imply in forward-looking statements. A number of important factors could cause results to differ materially from the plans, targets, goals, expectations, estimates and intentions we express in these forward-looking statements, including those we identify in our public filings and press releases. We do not intend to update these forward-looking statements.

We may not achieve all of the expected benefits of our strategic initiatives. Factors beyond our control, including but not limited to the market and economic conditions, changes in laws, rules or regulations and other challenges discussed in our public filings, could limit our ability to achieve some or all of the expected benefits of these initiatives.

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¹ WEF (2020), [Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy](#)

² United Nations, [Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)

³ Convention on Biological Diversity, [Preparations for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework](#)



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