

08. Dezember 2022

Press release by the [Bio-Mo-D Project](#) related to the
UN Biodiversity Conference CBD COP 15

We urgently need an honest accounting system!

Scientists and business representatives call for a rethink in corporate reporting and national economic accounting for better integrating the benefits provided by nature into decision making

[Statement of the research project Bio-Mo-D](#) on the UN Biodiversity Conference CBD COP 15 in Montréal, Canada and announcement of [side event at CBD COP 15](#) (hybrid event: [online access](#)) on December 14, 2022 at 18:15 (EST Montréal time).

It is about nothing less than stopping the destruction of vital ecosystems and preserving biodiversity: From December 7 to 19, representatives of around 200 countries will meet at the UN Conference on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) in Montréal, Canada, to agree on global targets for the conservation of the world's ecosystems.

For a successful fight against the dramatically progressing destruction of nature, there must be significantly more transparency and honesty in dealing with biodiversity and natural capital, demand scientists and company representatives of the Bio-Mo-D project. Within the joint project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, experts from various disciplines are working with the Value Balancing Alliance (VBA) to assess options for including ecological aspects into corporate reporting and national accounting.

In a statement ([Policy Brief](#)), the experts appeal to the negotiating member states of the UN Biodiversity Conference CBD COP 15 to include the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services not only in national economic reporting but to make it also mandatory for corporate reporting. Thereby companies should assess and disclose both their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and ecosystem services. So far, benefits provided by biodiversity and intact ecosystems are not included in national economic reporting or in corporate balance sheets and they are often ignored in models of economic research. Therefore, the loss of biodiversity but also benefits from ecosystem services are not considered in economic decision making.

According to a study by the World Economic Forum¹, however, well over half of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) depends on biodiversity and ecosystem services. A study by the World Bank² attests that the degradation of even a few ecosystem services can cause losses to global GDP

¹ Herweijer, C. et al. (2020). *Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy*. World Economic Forum.

² Johnson, J. A. et al. (2021). *The Economic Case for Nature: A Global Earth-Economy Model to Assess Development Policy Pathways*. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank.
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35882> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

of at least 2.3% annually. Because biodiversity loss, like climate change, has become a systemic risk to national economies and businesses, such interdependencies related to biodiversity and ecosystem service also need to be captured and reported, the statement says.

At a side event at CBD COP 15 in Montréal, The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the Value Balancing Alliance (VBA), both part of the Bio-Mo-D project, will bring together the leading organizations and initiatives for standardizing corporate sustainability reporting. It is the aim to inform the negotiators at CBD COP 15 about the integration of biodiversity into corporate reporting and to discuss the next steps for implementation ("mainstreaming").

Statement / Policy Brief: [Biodiversity loss as an economic risk \(English Version\)](#) | [German Version](#)

Side Event at CBD COP 15 (hybrid event, 14. December 2022 at 18:15 EST Montréal Time):

<https://www.cbd.int/side-events/4993>

Online access: <https://cbd.interactio.com/maly-s3sq-r7s7>

Bio-Mo-D Project: <https://bio-mo-d.ioer.info/en/>

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