International Standard

ISO 17298

Biodiversity — Considering biodiversity in the strategy and operations of organizations — Requirements and guidelines

Biodiversité — Prise en compte de la biodiversité dans la stratégie et le fonctionnement des organisations — Exigences et lignes directrices

First edition
2025-10

Reference number
ISO 17298:2025(en)

© ISO 2025



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2025
All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

Foreword ... **iv**

Introduction ... **v**

1 Scope ... **1**

2 Normative references ... **1**

3 Terms and definitions ... **1**
3.1 Terms specific to biodiversity ... 1
3.2 Terms specific to the approaches of the organizations ... 2

4 Context of the biodiversity approach ... **5**
4.1 Scope of the biodiversity approach ... 5
4.2 Review of existing policies, initiatives and actions ... 5
4.3 Consideration of interested parties ... 6
4.4 Staying updated ... 6

5 Involvement of interested parties ... **6**

6 Identifying and prioritizing biodiversity impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities ... **7**
6.1 General ... 7
6.2 Identification of the material ecosystem services dependencies ... 7
6.3 Identification of the material impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services ... 8
6.4 Identification of the material biodiversity-related risks and opportunities ... 8
6.5 Prioritization of the impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities ... 10

7 Formalizing the biodiversity action plan ... **10**
7.1 Organization's ambition ... 10
7.2 Defining objectives ... 10
7.3 Action planning ... 11
7.4 Setting indicators ... 12
7.5 Integrating the local context ... 12

8 Communication ... **12**
8.1 General ... 12
8.2 Internal communication of results ... 13
8.3 External communication of results ... 13

9 Implementation, monitoring and review ... **13**
9.1 Implementation ... 13
9.2 Monitoring indicators ... 13
9.3 Analysis of indicators' results ... 13
9.4 Continual improvement ... 14

Annex A (informative) **Resources to support implementation of a biodiversity approach** ... **15**

Annex B (informative) **DPSIR Framework applied to biodiversity** ... **17**

Bibliography ... **19**

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 331, *Biodiversity*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

Introduction

Biodiversity is a critical component to support life on earth. It underpins global nutrition and food security, buffers against disease, provides livelihoods, and has its inherent value. It is essential to ecosystem health, giving us protection from disasters, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing clean air, clean water and healthy soil. It is also critical to business: an estimated USD 44 trillion of the world's gross domestic product is highly or moderately dependent on nature.[1] The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)[2] has provided a historic agreement for society consistent with halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieving full recovery of nature by 2050. Target 15 of the GBF calls for large and transnational companies and financial institutions to monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including value chains and portfolios. These actions are aimed at progressively avoiding and reducing adverse impacts on biodiversity, increasing benefits and opportunities, reducing biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promoting actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production. To meet the objectives of this framework, a standardized approach is needed.

The aim of this document is to help organizations to include biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable use into their business, social and environmental strategies and practices. This document is intended for all types of organizations, whatever their size or nature, and either at the landscape level (production site, regional presence, commercial zone, farm, etc.) or organizational level (industrial corporation, local authority, etc.).

This document provides decision-making support that enables any organization to assess its biodiversity dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities, and to define, implement and monitor an action plan. This allows added value for both the organization itself and its interested parties. Indeed, the organization, through the individual behaviours of different actors within it, can create sustainable practices and concretely help to bring about necessary systemic changes.

As the steps of the biodiversity approach are iterative, organizations will typically move back and forth through various stages described in this document.

This document is expected to be used in conjunction with other relevant standards concerning ecological engineering, landscape-level approaches (e.g. ISO 37101[3]), or social responsibility (e.g. ISO 26000[4]).

The biodiversity approach proposed in this document is intended to be implemented on a stand-alone basis or can be used in conjunction with an environmental management system (e.g. ISO 14001[5]) or a comprehensive social responsibility approach (e.g. ISO 26000[4]), regarding risks and opportunities to consider or actions to implement.

Figure 1 provides an outline of the structure of this document and the connection between its various components.

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

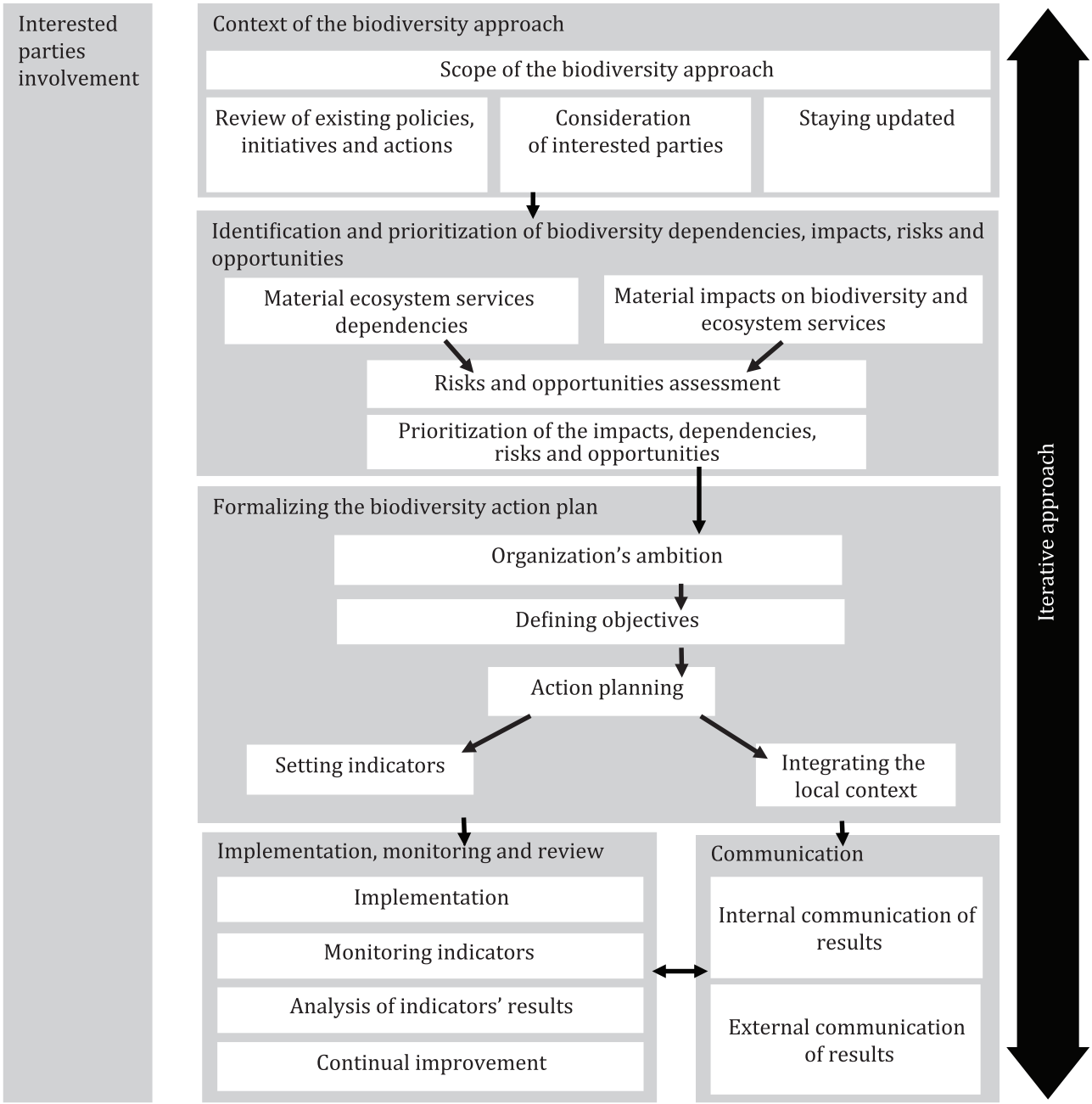


Figure 1 — Outline of this document

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

Biodiversity — Considering biodiversity in the strategy and operations of organizations — Requirements and guidelines

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and guidelines for organizations to consider biodiversity in their strategies and operations, thereby adopting a biodiversity approach.

It is applicable to any type of organization, irrespective of its size or nature (e.g. large groups, public institutions, local authorities, mid-cap companies, associations, micro-structures, single-member companies), sector, level of development and the extent to which it includes biodiversity protection in its activities.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 Terms specific to biodiversity

3.1.1
biodiversity
biological diversity
variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species, and within and between *ecosystems* (3.1.4)

Note 1 to entry: The definition of the term biodiversity is broad and open to interpretation and different uses. In the context of this document, biodiversity is used in a way that emphasizes its ecological function.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.8.22, modified — note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.1.2
conservation
management to maintain *biodiversity* (3.1.1)

3.1.3
critical habitat
area with high *biodiversity* (3.1.1) value

Note 1 to entry: critical habitats can include:

— habitats of significant importance to one or several critically endangered or endangered species;

— habitats of significant importance to one or several endemic or restricted-range species;

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

— habitats supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species or congregatory species highly threatened; unique ecosystems areas associated with key evolutionary processes.

3.1.4
ecosystem
dynamic complex of communities of plants, animals and microorganisms and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional entity

Note 1 to entry: Ecosystems can be influenced by human activities.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.3, modified — note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.1.5
ecosystem service
benefit people obtain from one or several *ecosystems* (3.1.4)

Note 1 to entry: These are generally distinguished into provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Ecosystem services include the provisioning of goods (e.g. food, fuel, raw materials, fibre), regulating services (e.g. climate regulation, disease control), and non-material benefits (cultural services) (e.g. spiritual or aesthetic benefits). The supporting services are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services (e.g. soil formation, nutrient cycling, water cycling) and are also referred to as “ecosystem functions”.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.4, modified — note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.1.6
ecological restoration
activity or process that assists in initiating or accelerating the recovery of an *ecosystem* (3.1.4) that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed

Note 1 to entry: By addressing ecosystem integrity, ecological restoration can reverse the loss of species by growing their population or reducing the population of alien invasive species.

3.1.7
mitigation hierarchy
decision-making framework involving a sequence of steps starting with the avoidance of *impacts* (3.2.6), followed by the minimization of inevitable impacts, on-site restoration and finally, where feasible and necessary, *biodiversity* (3.1.1) offsets

3.1.8
state
characteristic of *biodiversity* (3.1.1) and *ecosystem services* (3.1.5) as determined at a certain point in time

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.33, modified — the term “environmental condition” has been replaced by “state”; in the definition, "state" has been removed and “the environment” has been replaced by “biodiversity and ecosystem services”.]

3.2 Terms specific to the approaches of the organizations

3.2.1
action plan
concrete activities intended to achieve the *objectives* (3.2.9)

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 22272:2021, 3.6, modified — “target state” changed to “objectives”.]

3.2.2
biodiversity approach
process implemented by an organization with the aim of strategically and operationally maintaining and improving its environmental performance by integrating conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable use of *biodiversity* (3.1.1) and the *ecosystem services* (3.1.5), ideally by also improving its social and economic performances

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

3.2.3
continual improvement
recurring activity to improve performance

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.1.13]

3.2.4
dependency
reliance on the use of *ecosystem services* (3.1.5)

3.2.5
driver
indirect driver
underlying cause
root cause
human activity to satisfy human needs, or trend, both leading to one or more *pressures* (3.2.13)

3.2.6
impact
change to *biodiversity* (3.1.1), whether adverse or beneficial, including possible consequences, wholly or partially resulting from an *organization's* (3.2.10) activities

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.22, modified — "environmental" has been removed from the term; "the environment" has been replaced by "biodiversity" and "environmental aspects" has been replaced by "activities".]

3.2.7
indicator
quantitative, qualitative or binary variable that can be measured, calculated or described, representing the status of operations, management, conditions or *impacts* (3.2.6)

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.24]

3.2.8
interested party
person or *organization* (3.2.7) that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a decision or activity

Note 1 to entry: Internal interested parties can be top management, employees, temporary workers, employee representative bodies, members, volunteers, etc.

Note 2 to entry: External interested parties can be business/operational partners (suppliers, intermediaries, consumers, competitors, investors, etc.), public partners (government, state, ministries, local authorities, etc.), or civil society (neighbouring residents, citizens, associations, etc.).

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.1.2, modified — notes 1 and 2 to entry have been added.]

3.2.9
life cycle
consecutive and interlinked stages from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.6.1]

3.2.10
objective
result to be achieved

Note 1 to entry: An objective can be strategic, tactical, or operational.

Note 2 to entry: Fundamental objectives and means objective are differentiated. Fundamental objectives reflect the results on the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services (e.g. increase the pollinator population in a farm vicinity). Means objectives reflect actions for achieving a result (e.g. create new flower meadows areas on the farm).

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

Note 3 to entry: Objectives follow the SMART criteria:

— specific – clearly defined so that all people involved in the project have the same understanding of what the terms mean;

— measurable – definable in relation to some standard scale (numbers, percentage, fractions, or all/nothing states);

— achievable – practical and appropriate within the context, and in light of the political, social, and financial context;

— results-oriented – represents necessary changes in driver reduction, and/or other key expected results;

— time-limited – achievable within a specific period of time, generally 1 to 10 years.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.1.6, modified — notes 1 to 3 to entry have been added.]

3.2.11
organization
person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its *objectives* (3.2.9)

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.1.1]

3.2.12
product
any goods or service

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.5.12]

3.2.13
pressure
direct driver
element of an *organization's* (3.2.10) activities or *products* (3.2.12) that interacts or can interact with biodiversity

Note 1 to entry: Pressure is defined here from the perspective of an organization and thus in a narrower sense,[31] relative to other definitions that include pressures not attributable alone to the organization in question.[15],[30]

Note 2 to entry: The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) maintain a comprehensive classification of pressures.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.20, modified — the term has been changed from "environmental aspect"; "environment" has been replaced with "biodiversity"; notes 1 and 2 to entry have been added].

3.2.14
risk
biodiversity-related risk
potential threat (effect of uncertainty) to an *organization* (3.2.10) that arises from its and the wider society's *dependencies* (3.2.4) and *impacts* (3.2.5) on *biodiversity* (3.1.1)

3.2.15
opportunity
biodiversity-related opportunity
activity that creates positive outcomes for *organizations* (3.2.10) and *biodiversity* (3.1.1) by creating positive *impacts* (3.2.5) on biodiversity or mitigating adverse impacts

3.2.16
sphere of influence
range or extent of political, contractual, economic or other relationships through which an *organization* (3.2.10) has the ability to affect the decisions or activities of individuals or other organizations

Note 1 to entry: The ability to influence does not, in itself, imply a responsibility to exercise influence.

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.2.34, modified — "other" has been added before "organizations"; note 1 to entry has been added.]

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved

3.2.17
value chain
entire sequence of activities or parties that provide or receive value in the form of *products* (3.2.12)

Note 1 to entry: Parties that provide the value include suppliers, outsourced workers, contractors and others.

Note 2 to entry: Parties that receive value include customers, consumers, clients, members and other users.

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.25, modified — "products or services" has been replaced by "products".]

4 Context of the biodiversity approach

4.1 Scope of the biodiversity approach

The organization shall determine the scope of its biodiversity approach by establishing its boundaries and applicability.

When the organization establishes this scope, it shall decide whether the biodiversity approach applies to:

— one, several or all of its activities;

— one, several or all of its land tenure areas;

— all or part of operations it owns or controls;

— all or part of its value chain, its products' life cycles and its sphere of influence.

Each aspect of the scope shall be clearly documented.

When determining the scope, the organization shall consider:

— the nature and complexity of its activities, in its various operations;

— its size (including the number of people in the organization and revenues);

— the location(s) of its site(s), its land tenure;

— its sectors of activity and markets;

— its sphere of influence, its value chain and the interested parties associated with its activities over the life cycle of the activities or products;

— any controversies associated with its activities;

— its structure and the nature of decision-making within or upstream of the organization;

— its anticipated potential and actual impacts already identified;

— its potential and actual dependencies and risks related to biodiversity already identified;

— its proximity to critical habitats.

4.2 Review of existing policies, initiatives and actions

The organization shall list any biodiversity-related policies currently effective within the organization, whether voluntary or imposed by regulations, along with any currently isolated actions relating to biodiversity implemented in order to adopt a process for improving its environmental performance. To do this, it can, if applicable, assess the environmental or social responsibility policies which fit into a broader framework. The review should include policies, initiatives and actions related to other sustainability issues (e.g. climate change or pollution) therefore enabling the organization to create appropriate linkages and reinforce these other actions from a biodiversity angle.

© ISO 2025 – All rights reserved