

# Integrating biodiversity into a risk assessment framework

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# Biodiversity-related risks in the spotlight

- » Nature declining at unprecedented rates
- Decreasing biodiversity has cascading global implications – climate change, disease, poverty
- » Economic and financial decision-making have not traditionally priced in the value of nature
- Policymakers globally are beginning to incorporate biodiversity into reporting requirements
- » Industry-led TNFD will develop a framework for biodiversity-related reporting and governance



Source: Moody's ESG Solutions

## Our framework for assessing biodiversity-related risks



Source: Integrating biodiversity into a risk assessment framework. Moody's ESG Solutions, May 26, 2021

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## Measuring impact: our habitat loss indicator

- » We overlay remote sensing data with corporate facility location data to determine which companies have sites/ operations located in or near areas of high biodiversity significance where activities of those companies may negatively affect those areas
- » Run facilities through three filters
- » Not a direct measurement of a specific facility's impact



Source: Moody's ESG Solutions

## Measuring impact: our habitat loss indicator

Estimated 38% of assessed 5,300 global companies have at least one facility associated with habitat loss



- Facilities associated with habitat loss colored by the biodiversity significance of their location
  - Darker green facilities are those in locations with higher biodiversity significance, based on species composition and habitat quality
  - Lighter facilities in areas of lower, although still high, levels of biodiversity significance
- Biodiversity significant values range from 0-1, signifying share of similar habitats that are in poorer condition based on human interference
  - Locations with a value >0.5 are in better condition than over half of similar habitats
  - Values >0.5 considered pass first screening for facility to be associated with habitat loss

6

#### Source: Moody's ESG Solutions

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#### Assessing governance: heavy construction case study

- » We review corporate disclosures, questionnaire responses and public information to identify:
  - Commitments to reduce biodiversity loss
  - Measures companies have implemented
- » Key findings heavy construction companies:
  - 61% disclose commitments to address biodiversity.
  - 64% of these companies rank as "weak" in terms of implementation, less than 10% are "robust" and only 5% "advanced"

Percent of assessed heavy construction companies that disclose biodiversityrelated commitments



Ranking of assessed heavy construction companies based on disclosures of implemented biodiversity-related measures



#### Source: Moody's ESG Solutions

#### Assessing governance: biodiversity controversies

- » We identified 337 biodiversity-related controversies from December 2016-April 2021, representing 7% of total assess controversies
- » 53% of assessed biodiversity controversies are in the Mining and Metals, Food and Energy sectors
- » 93% of biodiversity controversies are considered high or significant in terms of their scale and scope



Table 1	Number of biodiversity-relate	d controversies by sector since December 2016
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SECTOR	NUMBER OF CASES	% OF BIODIVERSITY CASES	NUMBER OF COMPANIES
Mining & Metals	71	21.1	36
Food	67	19.9	26
Energy	40	11.9	27
Electric & Gas Utilities	15	4.5	13
Chemicals	14	4.2	9
Oil Equipment & Services	12	3.6	10
Home Construction	12	3.6	6
Diversified Banks	10	3	10

Source: <u>Controversy risk assessment:</u> <u>a focus on biodiversity.</u> Moody's ESG Solutions, May 27 2021

8

#### Future research

» Add a measure of severity of impact to the Habit Loss Indicator (rather than binary filtration)

- » Integrate additional datasets to inform Impact indicators:
  - Remote sensing proxies for biodiversity
  - Species richness and critically endangered species
  - Supply chain data
- » Expand governance assessment framework to include sector specific measures, such as biodiversity certified forests

# Q&A

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