

Monitoring and disclosing your
nature-related risks and impacts



UN Tourism



NATURE POSITIVE ACTION SHEET

2 Monitoring and disclosing your nature-related risks and impacts

Sustainability is a pressing global topic, impacting many sectors and industries. Consumers, investors and regulatory bodies increasingly expect businesses to demonstrate high levels of transparency and accountability. With the majority of Travel & Tourism operations taking place at the interface with nature, clear and reliable disclosures on sustainability efforts are critical.

Effective monitoring and reporting allow Travel & Tourism businesses to accurately disclose their dependencies, impacts and risks, and their actions to address them. This is fundamental to minimising harm to nature and help to restore biodiversity. This Action Sheet outlines processes to measure, monitor and report on business' operations and sustainability commitments.

Before disclosing sustainability efforts, businesses must first establish effective monitoring and reporting processes. This begins with a materiality assessment of operations and value chain activities (see **Action Sheet 3: Assessing Nature Risk in the Value Chain**). Results from the assessment, combined with existing policies and commitments, inform the objectives and targets and identify the activities requiring monitoring. This enables the business to select relevant, meaningful measurements and metrics to collect and record.

This information will underpin reports and disclosures, which need to include negative impacts and the results of efforts to mitigate or remediate them, backed up with appropriate metrics and KPIs.

Key Terms

Double Materiality: The combination of impact materiality ('impacts') and financial materiality ('dependencies'). Travel & Tourism operations and activities heavily rely on nature (financial materiality) and may also pose a threat to nature (impact materiality) - both must be assessed.

Key Actions:

- 1 Identify material dependencies and impacts**
Adopt a double materiality approach to identify associated risk and key focus areas, procedures explained in "Assessing nature risk in your supply chain".
- 2 Select data sources and metrics**
Identify required data and suitable collection methods. Develop metrics to measure the effectiveness of actions taken – the basis for monitoring progress.
- 3 Set targets and KPIs**
Set measurable targets relevant to operations and materiality. Select KPIs from the metrics to create a framework for evaluating progress.
- 4 Integrate monitoring into activities**
Design and implement activities that align with the chosen metrics and targets.
- 5 Ensure regular, ongoing monitoring**
Establish a monitoring plan to continuously track progress, using the selected metrics and targets.
- 6 Report and disclose**
Translate monitoring results into clear, data-driven reports and disclosures.

By implementing this guidance, businesses can expect to:

- Identify key activities for monitoring
- Select appropriate metrics and gather relevant data
- Set SMART targets with clear KPIs
- Compile accurate reports
- Deliver disclosures in accordance with global standards (CSRD, TNFD etc.).

1 Identify material dependencies and impacts

A materiality assessment is the first step to monitoring and reporting on an organisation's impacts and dependencies.

Actions:

- Scope potential nature dependencies and impacts in the organisation's operations and value chain as outlined in [Nature Positive Travel & Tourism in Action](#), regulatory guidelines (e.g. TNFD) and stakeholder expectations. Engage departments within the business to gain insights into possible interfaces with nature.
- Identify which of the potential dependencies and impacts are 'material' - relevant and significant to the organisation. 'Double materiality' means assessing both nature **dependencies** and nature **impacts**.
- Classify the importance of material impacts and dependencies as low, medium or high, based on significance and relevance. This will identify your key focus areas for monitoring and reporting.

Tips:

- Refer to "Assessing nature risk in your supply chain" to understand how to comprehensively assess the entire value chain.
- Separate impacts and dependencies to enable accurate monitoring and reporting in future.

2 Select data sources and metrics

Develop specific metrics to evaluate the level of material dependencies and impacts.

Actions:

- Determine what data can realistically be gathered at a frequency and level of detail to be useful. This may be direct measures such as volume of water supplied to a property, or indirect measures such as miles travelled (used to estimate CO2 emissions).
- Use the data to develop metrics that accurately reflect the effectiveness of sustainability actions and progress made towards meeting targets. These may be simply the original data, or they may be a further calculation from it, such as proportion of total water use supplied by rainwater capture, or distance travelled per guest night.
- Ensure that there is a realistic action plan for gathering the specified data at the required frequency and level of detail.

Tips:

- Where specific reporting standards need to be followed (e.g. ESRS, TNFD, GRI, etc.) refer to these at this stage to ensure that the data being collected will meet their requirements.
- Use Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor performance. These are carefully selected metrics that are key to tracking your progress against specified targets.

3 Set targets and KPIs

Once you have identified your metrics, use these to establish measurable goals.

Actions:

- Develop clear targets, with defined metrics to evaluate them (KPIs), that relate to organisational commitments and objectives.
- Separate dependencies and impacts into direct operation and value chain to show which you can reach independently, and which require collaboration.
- Align targets and objectives with existing global targets and industry standards and consult stakeholders to ensure they meet all needs.

Tips:

- Set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timebound) targets to ensure that all key elements of targets are taken into consideration. Develop internal capacity through training and recruitment or consult with experts to ensure targets are science-based and provide the greatest value for your organisation.

KPIs: Key Performance Indicators are particular metrics that you use to track progress towards targets - as opposed to any other metrics you may report on or use in other ways, but which are not tied to specific targets.

4 Integrate monitoring into activities

Develop and implement a strategy and/or action plan that is compatible with the measurements and metrics and delivers on the targets.

Actions:

- Include data collection for identified measurements in activity plans where relevant.
- Create processes for monitoring results to feed back into project implementation.

Tips:

- Research examples of successful sustainability actions and reach out to organisations that have implemented them.
- For more guidance see the **Nature Positive Tourism Roadmap**, Phase 2: Reduce & Restore in the report **Nature Positive Travel & Tourism** and **Nature Positive Tourism Toolbox**.

Metric: An indicator or descriptive statistic used to monitor, report and set targets for actions. Metrics are derived from direct measurements, usually with some adaptation to make them more relevant for monitoring - e.g. carbon emissions per room night (combination of two measurements) or biodiversity index (calculated from ecological survey results). Metrics used to evaluate progress against targets become KPIs.

5 Ensure regular, ongoing monitoring

Ensure that data collection and project monitoring activities are conducted regularly and reliably.

Actions:

- Create a monitoring plan to regularly collect and analyse the selected data.
- Integrate the monitoring plan throughout the business – effective monitoring can only be conducted if everyone in a business is on board, and different departments will have different data to contribute.
- Regularly review progress against targets (using KPIs) and feed information into the activity plan to improve its effectiveness

Tips:

- Provide education and training on data gathering and monitoring processes for relevant employees throughout the company.
- Consider incorporating biodiversity monitoring measures, such as environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling - a low-impact method that detects species presence through trace genetic material in water or soil - to track ecosystem health over time.

Monitoring plan: An actionable plan that details all processes to monitor performance against defined targets. This must include methods and frequency of data collection, roles and responsibilities and how to report progress and raise any concerns.

6 Report and disclose

Use the monitoring outputs to underpin robust reports and disclosures.

Actions:

- Present your objectives, targets and monitoring results in full. Celebrate success and acknowledge missed targets with explanations of what went wrong and how you will address it going forward.
- Plan your report with all the key audiences and standards in mind so that they can be addressed simultaneously.
- Explain how the achievements and lessons learned inform planning for the next period and update goals and targets accordingly.

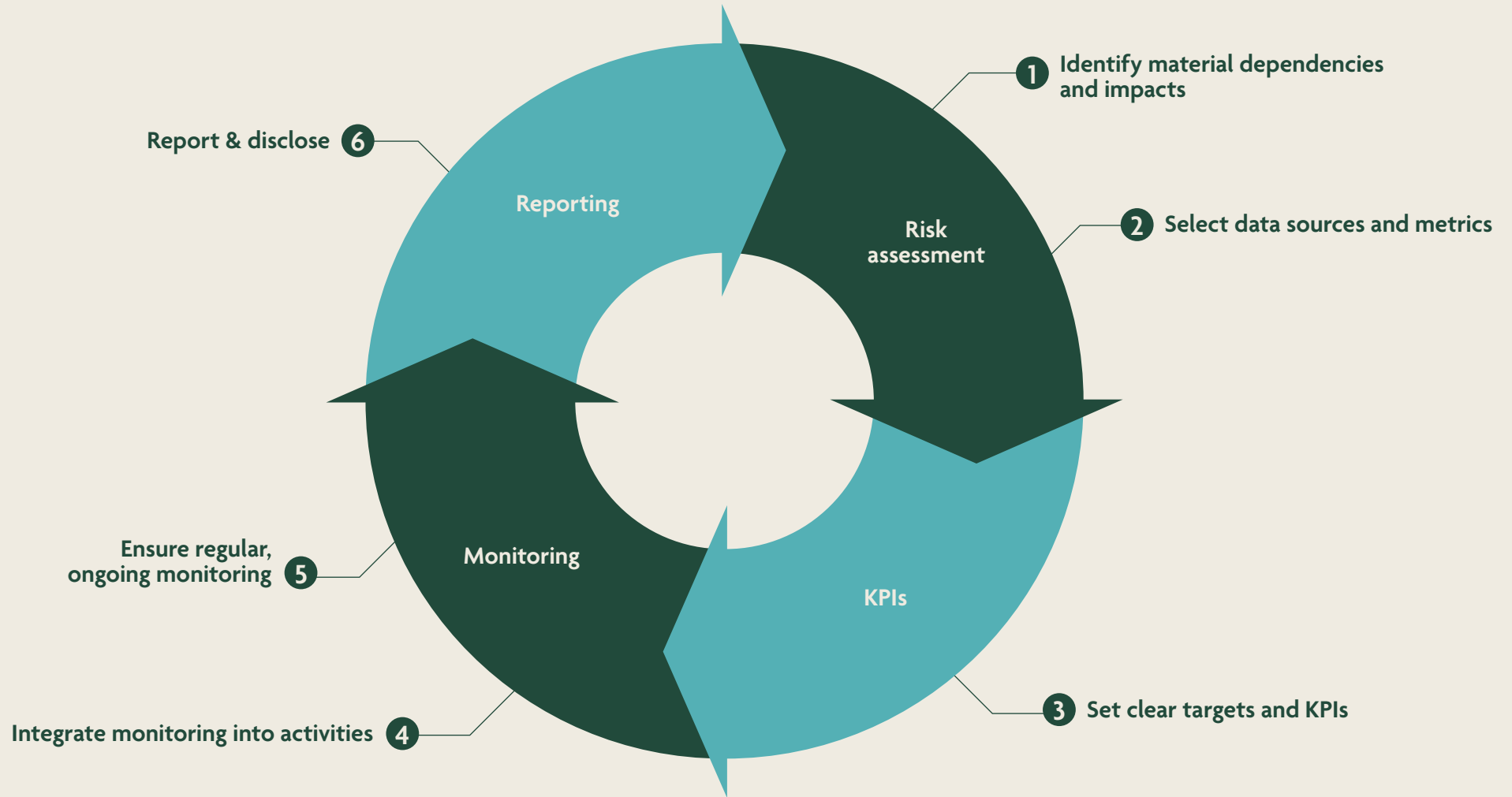
Tips:

- Be transparent with the results of your materiality assessment - list all dependencies and impacts and explain why they were considered material or not.
- Give context to chosen policies and actions - explain how they directly address material dependencies and impacts.
- Use your metrics to show progress towards targets and disclose whether timescales are accurate and achievable.

Disclosure: Public reporting on ESG performance, operational impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities. Normally a detailed report covering all components of an organisation's sustainability commitments and actions.

– KEY STEPS –

For Businesses Monitoring and Disclosing Dependencies & Impacts





Outputs & Outcomes

Through the guidance in this Action sheet, businesses will be able to:

- ✓ Identify material dependencies and impacts on nature
- ✓ Identify relevant data and metrics for monitoring and reporting
- ✓ Set targets and KPIs based on your double materiality assessment
- ✓ Integrate monitoring into business operations
- ✓ Produce evidenced, insightful reports in line with important regulations and directives.

Troubleshooting

1. *How can I be sure our data is accurate?*

- Use sustainability experts with experience in auditing to ensure accurate data collection and processing.
- Conduct internal interviews to validate data collection and adherence to policy and action.

2. *What if I can only set limited targets?*

- It is best to set achievable targets, even if they do not seem ambitious. Transparency is the key to successfully disclosing. By regularly revising and extending targets, progress can build incrementally.

3. *What if my targets are not met?*

- Again, transparency is the most important part to disclosures. Report honestly where targets have not been met and demonstrate how you are adapting your approach to improve results.

4. *How can I be sure to report under all regulations and frameworks?*

- Before you begin the process of setting commitments or gathering data, prepare a list of the reporting standards you are legally required to or have voluntarily chosen to follow.
- At each stage in the process, check against each reporting standard to see what is required to meet it, especially in terms of data collection and reporting content.
- Carefully read through the specifics of each standard at the start of the reporting process and prepare a detailed outline / brief for the final report that meets the requirements.

Policy context

This Action Sheet prepares business to meet directives, regulations and policies, such as:

- CSRD
- LEAP/TNFD
- And other ESG formats

Further Reading / Additional support

- **Nature Positive Travel & Tourism**, WTTC – p18-19; 34-39; 45-47
- **Nature Positive Travel & Tourism in Action**, Nature Positive Tourism Partnership – p.15-19
- **Toolbox of Nature Positive Tourism Resources**, Nature Positive Tourism Partnership – p.2-4; p.7-12
- **Handbook for Sustainable Tourism Practitioners**, Part IV Monitoring and Evaluation
- **The Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism** (SF-MST), UN Tourism
- Mandle, L., Shea, A., Soth, E. et al. (2024) **An open-source approach for measuring corporate impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity**. Commun Earth Environ 5, 625.

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Nature Positive Action Sheets

Support Travel & Tourism's united mission to accelerate efforts to reverse biodiversity loss, reduce associated risk and achieve net positive for nature.



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