



LITTLE BLUE RESEARCH CASE STUDY

Natural capital research

Client: Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

Client size: 7,000 sustainability alumni

Little Blue Research's Dr. Stephanie Hime supported the development of a series of four papers looking at the relationship between business and natural capital in collaboration with Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership (CISL). Topics included the risks & opportunities of managing natural resources, natural capital measurement, metrics, and the role of government.

Service: Research & training

Capital: NATURAL

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Case study details

Client need

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and the Natural Capital Leaders Platform required technical and research support to:

- produce a report on the risks and opportunities from managing natural resources and understand the commercial measures needing input from natural capital indicators.
- understand the challenges of identifying environmental metrics for corporate use.
- produce a paper on methods to measure natural capital, also identifying data gaps and recommendations on how businesses can address these gaps.
- identify progress on the inclusion of natural capital within government across 30 countries, supporting the Natural Capital Coalition's Government Dialogue on Enabling Natural Capital Approaches.

The challenge

- Research to better understand commercial decisions impacted by natural resource concerns.
- Research to explore the business use and need for natural capital metrics.
- Research to determine how businesses are already measuring natural capital impacts.
- Providing actions for businesses to identify environmental metrics and improve their impact measurement.
- Identifying data gaps for specific natural capital impacts and recommendations on where to use proxy data.
- Identifying data gaps relating to consideration of natural capital by government and recommendations on how to address these.



Outputs and results

- ✓ [Operationalising natural capital: Managing opportunities and risks from natural resources](#)
- ✓ [The Commercial Logic to measuring Natural Capital](#)
- ✓ [How businesses measure their impacts on nature: A gap analysis](#)
- ✓ Report presented at the 3rd World Forum on Natural Capital: 'Snapshot of Government Engagement with Natural Capital Approaches'.

What happened next

Following the development of this research, CISL worked with Little Blue Research to develop and deliver sessions as part of its Natural Capital Leadership Lab executive training course. In addition, Little Blue Research worked with CISL and others to develop case studies for collaboration and feedback sessions with businesses that had applied the Natural Capital Protocol.



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