

## Climate resilience the leading driver for business action on nature ahead of COP17

- New report finds climate resilience is the highest-ranked driver for business action on nature
- More than half (53%) of sustainability practitioners identify building the business case for nature as a leading challenge, while 49% struggle to quantify risks and opportunities
- While 72% of responding organisations have started integrating nature into business processes, just 16% report that it is fully integrated

A new report published ahead of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP17) has found that climate resilience is the leading reason for businesses to act on nature, as climate disruption and concerns over raw material costs increase pressure on companies to protect their supply chains.

The report from conservation consultancy Biodiversify and sustainability consultancy Little Blue Research, surveyed 229 sustainability professionals on the progress, drivers, and barriers to integrating nature into business decision-making.

It found that corporate action on nature remains at an early stage, with only 16% of responding organisations reporting full integration of nature into their business processes. Overall, 72% report at least starting integration, up from 64% in 2024.

Adapting to climate change was the highest-ranked driver for corporate action on nature in 2026, with 80% of respondents citing climate resilience as a motivating factor. However, preparing for policy and legislation remains important.

Concern over the rising cost of raw materials has also become a stronger motivation for action, cited by almost half (48%) of practitioners, up from 34% in 2024.

While businesses are becoming more confident in identifying their impacts and dependencies on nature, translating this information into practical action remains difficult.

More than half (53%) identified building the business case for action on nature as one of their biggest challenges, highlighting the difficulty of demonstrating to decision-makers why investment in nature makes commercial sense.

Meanwhile, 49% cited difficulties quantifying the risks nature loss poses to businesses and the potential opportunities of acting on nature, and 42% cited difficulties assessing how nature-related risks could affect their supply chains.

Such challenges underscore the gap between corporate ambition and implementation.

Looking ahead to COP17 (19–30 October 2026), where governments will review progress towards international biodiversity targets for 2030, 55% of nature practitioners are calling for greater business incentives and support to help turn nature commitments into action.



**Dr Michael Burgass, Co-Founder and Director of Biodiversify, said:** *"Businesses have a much clearer understanding of climate change than they do of nature loss. Boards recognise the commercial risks of rising temperatures, droughts and extreme weather, but there is less understanding of how the natural environment can help businesses manage those risks."*

*"Healthy soils, reliable water supplies and functioning ecosystems all play an important role in helping businesses withstand disruption."*

*"Looking at nature through the lens of climate resilience gives businesses a clearer commercial reason to act. The next step is to translate that understanding into decisions about sourcing, investment and supply chains, so that protecting nature is part of how businesses mitigate risk and plan for the future."*

**Dr Stephanie Hime FISEP, Managing Director of Little Blue Research, said:** *"The findings show how far the corporate nature agenda has developed since our first survey in 2024. Practitioners increasingly have the tools and frameworks to identify nature-related impacts and dependencies, but quantifying what these mean financially remains a significant challenge."*

*"Businesses need to understand not only where they are exposed to nature-related risks, but also the potential costs of those risks and the value of taking action. Strengthening that link is essential if nature is to become a routine consideration in commercial decision-making."*

The full report, *Integrating nature into business decision-making: progress, barriers and action in 2026*, is available here: <https://www.littleblueresearch.com/nature2026>

## ENDS

### Media contact

Catherine Kitchen

[catherine@higginsonstrategy.com](mailto:catherine@higginsonstrategy.com)

+44 77 6367 1844

### Notes to editors

#### About the report:

*Integrating nature into business decision-making: progress, barriers and action in 2026* is a joint report by Biodiversify and Little Blue Research, based on a survey conducted in summer 2026.

The survey received 229 eligible responses from sustainability professionals across more than 30 countries, with respondents including both corporate practitioners and consultants supporting businesses on nature-related issues.

The report builds on research conducted by Little Blue Research in 2024. Sample sizes vary by question, and consultants were asked to respond based on their experience supporting clients.

#### About Biodiversify:

Biodiversify is a conservation consultancy passionate about partnering with clients committed to nature. We educate and support clients in mitigating biodiversity loss throughout their operations and



supply chains. Together, we create a transformative future where a sustainable economy values, protects, and restores nature for the benefit of people worldwide.

The expert team specialises in using cutting-edge science to understand complex social and ecological systems to make informed decisions about how to protect and restore our planet's natural resources.

For more information: <https://biodiversify.com/>

#### **About Little Blue Research:**

Little Blue Research is an independent consultancy that specialises in the provision of technical support for environmental economics and social impact valuation. We help clients understand and value their impacts and dependencies on nature and people, providing evidence to support better decision-making.

For more information: <https://littleblueresearch.com/>