



*An overview of the IPBES
Business and Biodiversity
Assessment*



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Flanders
State of the Art

An overview of the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment

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Slides adapted from

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Scope and rationale of the business and biodiversity assessment

Strengthen the knowledge base to **support efforts by businesses to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity** and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

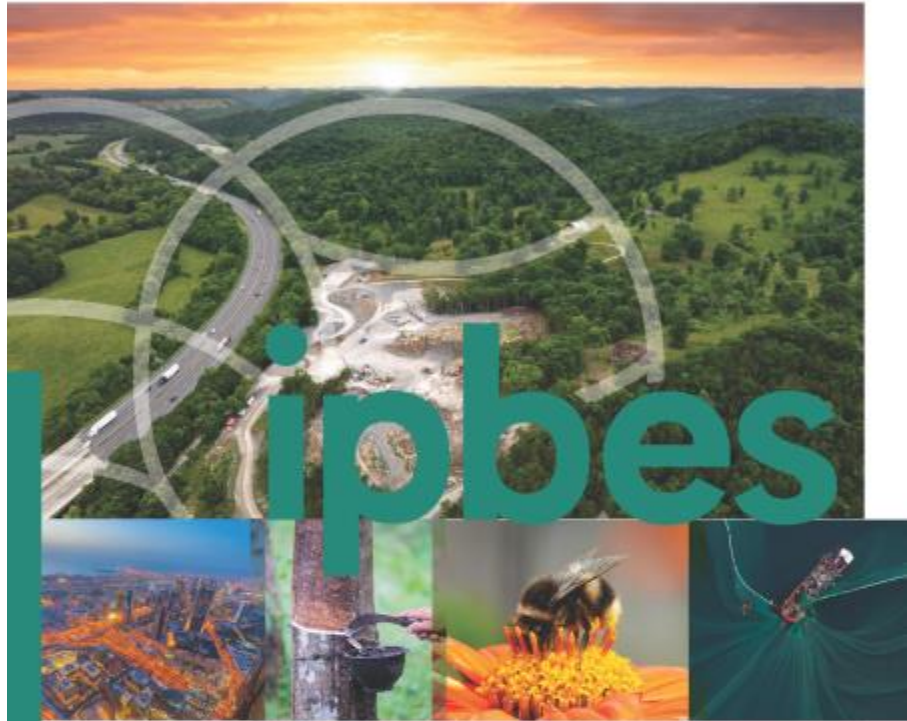
Categorize the **dependencies and impacts** of businesses on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people

Assess methods for measuring direct dependencies and impacts

Assess options for actions by businesses and by others, including Governments, the financial sector, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and civil society, that interact with business

Annex I to decision IPBES-9/1





The methodological assessment report on
**THE IMPACT AND DEPENDENCE
 OF BUSINESS ON BIODIVERSITY
 AND NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS
 TO PEOPLE**

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS



Key numbers



Three years in development



Authors and Countries

79 authors from 35 different countries

Gender

45 female and 34 male authors

Contributing Authors

43 contributing authors (3 ILK holders)

External Comments

1 external review and >6,000 external review comments

Evidence

>5,000 cited references (Chapters + SPM)

Cost ≈\$1.5 million USD



IPBES (2026). Summary for Policymakers of the Methodological Assessment Report on the Impact and Dependence of Business on Biodiversity and Nature's Contributions to People. Jones M., Polasky S., Rueda X., Brooks S., Carter Ingram J., Egho B. N., von Hase A., Kohsaka R., Kulak M., Leach K., Loyola R., Mandle L., Rodriguez-Osuna V., Schaafsma M. and Sonter L. J. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15369060>

Main narratives



- The loss of biodiversity is one of the most serious threats to business and society. **Yet many current economic systems remain unsustainable and drive nature's decline.**
- Each year, up to **\$7.3 trillion** in global financial flows support activities that drive biodiversity loss, while only **\$220 billion** is spent on activities for nature restoration, conservation and sustainable use.

Main narratives

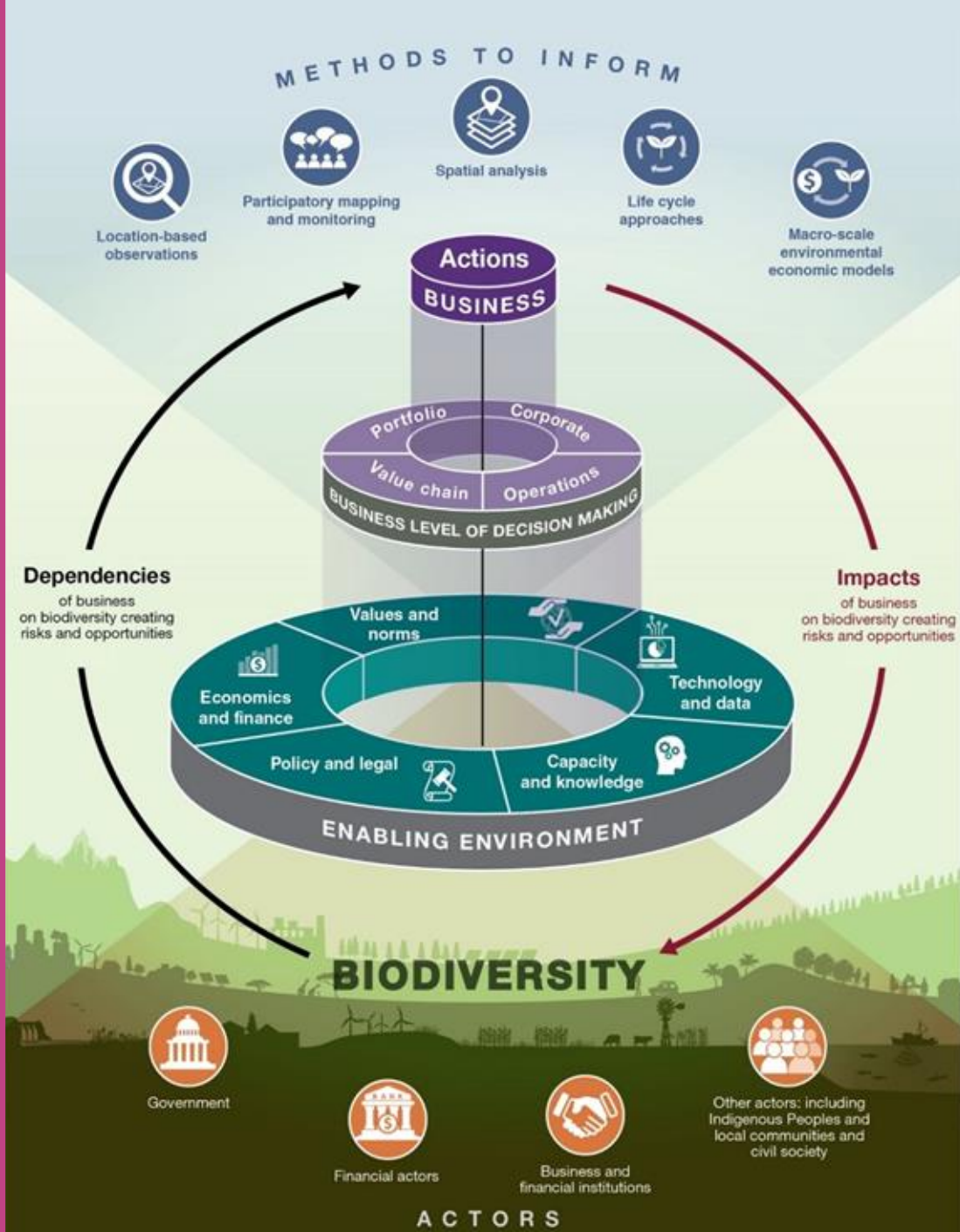


- All businesses depend on and impact biodiversity.
- Businesses can and should already act now to decrease their negative impact
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services also represent an opportunity for businesses.
- They face barriers that hinder efforts and often lack information to address their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

Main narratives



- This Report provides businesses with options for immediate action to address their impacts and dependencies.
 - It also highlights long-term systemic change response options available to businesses and financial institutions, but also financial actors, governments and all of society, spanning regulatory frameworks but also social values and norms, or technology.

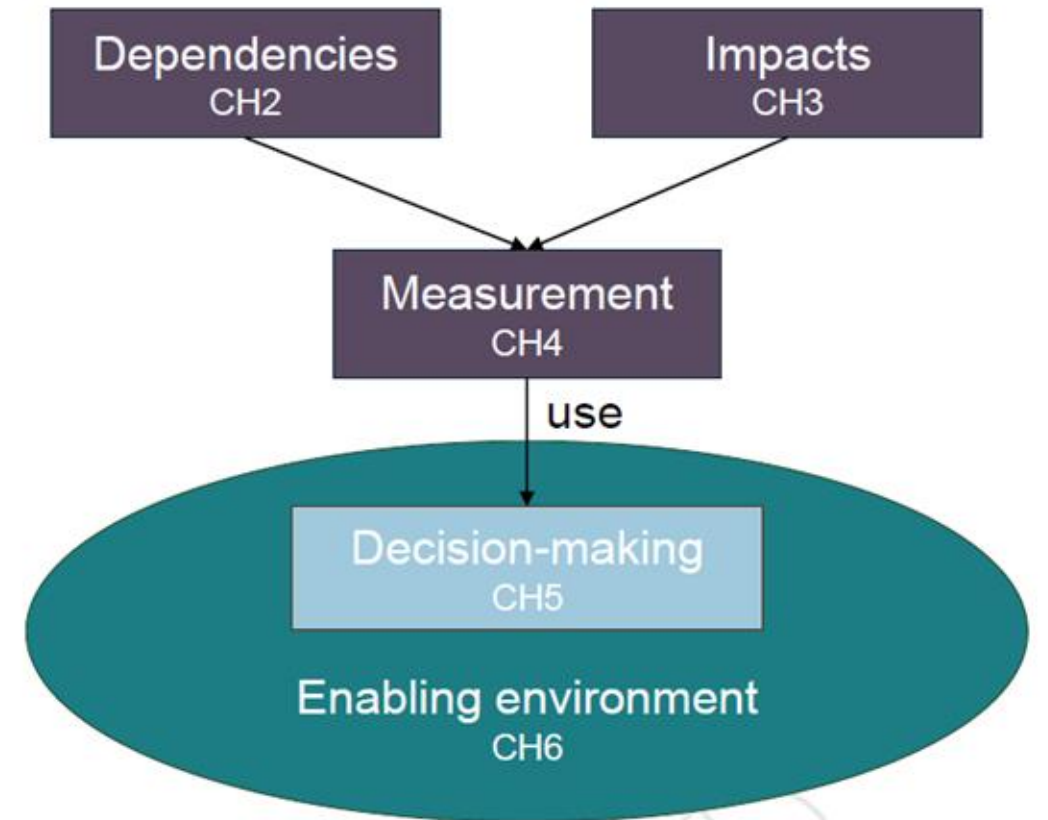


- 10 Key Messages
- 29 Background Messages
- Understanding the relationships between businesses and biodiversity (A1-A8)
- Options for action (B1-B13)
- Measuring businesses impacts and dependencies (C1-C8)

Chapters structure



Chapter 1: Setting the scene	Introduces business–biodiversity relationships, including a typology of business sectors and their dependencies and impacts across formal and informal activities.
Chapter 2: How does business depend on biodiversity?	Reviews methods to identify business dependencies on biodiversity across sectors and scales, highlighting examples, synergies, and trade-offs with societal goals.
Chapter 3: How does business impact biodiversity?	Presents a typology of business impacts on biodiversity, covering direct, value chain, and indirect pathways, with sectoral impact estimates.
Chapter 4: Approaches for measurement of business dependencies and impacts on biodiversity	Assesses approaches, frameworks, metrics, data, and tools for measuring business dependencies and impacts, including an inventory of methods.
Chapter 5: Businesses as key actors of change: options for action by business	Explores options for business action, showing how measurement of dependencies and impacts can inform decisions and improve social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
Chapter 6: Creating an enabling environment for business: options for actions by Governments, the financial sector and civil society?	Examines options for governments, finance, and civil society to enable business action through policy and legal frameworks, economics and finance, values and norms, technology and data, capacity and knowledge





BUSINESS



- Risks**
- Physical
 - Transition
 - Systemic

Nature's contributions to people

Material

Dependencies

Direct, value chain

Regulating

Non-material

Opportunities
(e.g., new products, efficiency gains, increased resilience, conservation, restoration and sustainable management practices)

BIODIVERSITY

Direct drivers of biodiversity loss

Land/sea use change

Direct exploitation

Climate change

Pollution

Invasive alien species

Impacts

Direct, indirect, value chain, cumulative

KM.1 All businesses depend on and impact biodiversity and can be agents of positive change.



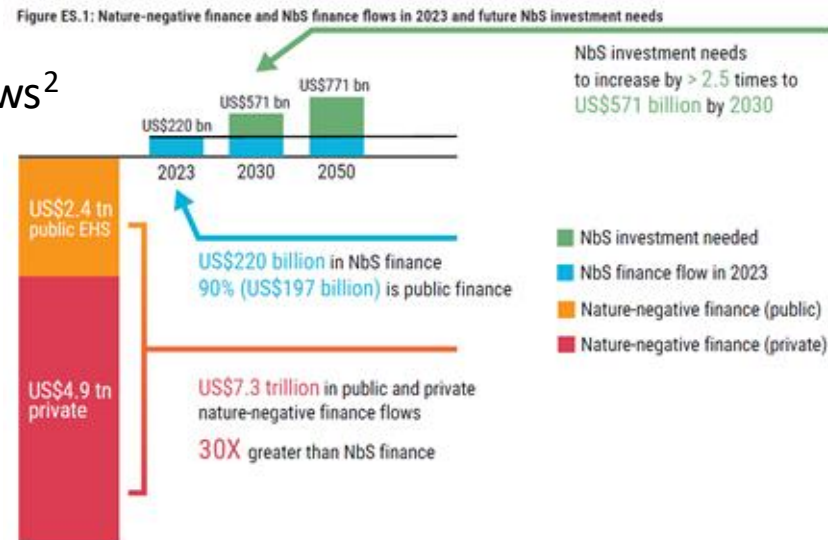
	Risks ⊖	Opportunities ⊕
Impacts	<p>1 Intensive forestry relies on pesticides with negative impact on non-target pollinators creating reputational risk with nearby communities</p> <p>2 Furniture manufacture discharges chemicals to freshwater ecosystem creating risk of non-compliance with permit</p> <p>3 Transportation and shipping spreads invasive alien species creating compliance risk.</p>	<p>7 Sustainable forest management reduces soil erosion creating opportunity for payments for ecosystem services from nearby hydropower facility</p> <p>8 Investments in protection, restoration and sustainable use of mangroves can provide cost-effective alternatives to grey infrastructure.</p> <p>9 Introducing native trees in pastures devoted to cattle ranching increases milk production and animal wellbeing</p>
Dependencies	<p>4 Indigenous-led fruit farm depends on wild pollinators creating risk to crop yield if pollinator abundance falls</p> <p>5 Hydropower depends on standing forest for soil stabilisation and erosion control creating risk if deforestation leads to increase in sediment</p> <p>6 Furniture manufacture value chain depends on supply of high-quality timber creating risk if supply falls</p>	<p>10 Coffee farms depend on bats as predators of pests creating opportunities to increase yields with sustainable habitat management</p> <p>11 Agriculture depends on freshwater abstraction creating opportunity to reduce costs through good management</p> <p>12 Eco-tourism depends on endemic species creating opportunity to increase income through collaboration with nearby communities to manage habitat</p>

Failing to internalize costs of pollution and biodiversity loss¹



KM.2 The current external conditions in which businesses operate are not always compatible with achieving a just and sustainable future and perpetuate systemic risks.

Harmful finance flows²



¹European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, WSP, Ricardo and Trinomics, *The cost of PFAS pollution for our society – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2026, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/9590509>

²United Nations Environment Programme (2026). *State of Finance for Nature 2026: Nature in the red: Powering the trillion dollar nature transition economy*. Nairobi. <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49119>



KM.3 Collaboration, collective and individual actions are essential to create an enabling environment where businesses contribute to a just and sustainable future.

A Government

A.1.6 Incentivize or mandate corporate disclosure and reporting on biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts. {B2}

 2. Economics and finance

 3. Values and norms

 4. Technology and data

A.5.4 Foster research to address gaps in knowledge and its application in the intersection of business and biodiversity. {B6}

B Financial actors

 1. Policy and legal

B.2.2 Mobilize public and private capital toward biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use projects. {B3}

 3. Values and norms

 4. Technology and data

 5. Capacity and knowledge

C Businesses and financial institutions

 1. Policy and legal

 2. Economics and finance

C.3.5 Align business operations and strategies with social values, norms, and culture emphasizing sustainability, equity, and inclusivity {B4}

 4. Technology and data

 5. Capacity and knowledge

D Other actors: including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, consumers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and academia

 1. Policy and legal

 2. Economics and finance





 3. Values and norms

D.4.8 Use on-the-ground data collection through bottom-up approaches, which include traditional methods. {B5, C2}

 5. Capacity and knowledge



KM.4 All businesses have a responsibility to address their impacts and dependencies

Level of business decision-making	Examples of actions that businesses can take
<p data-bbox="1047 334 1182 386">Corporate {B2, B9, A3}</p> 	<ul data-bbox="1256 279 2283 491" style="list-style-type: none">• Integrate biodiversity-related risks, opportunities, costs and benefits into business decision-making and financial planning• Explore and adopt alternative business models
<p data-bbox="1054 805 1169 853">Operation {B1}</p> 	<ul data-bbox="1256 815 2283 965" style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and meaningfully engage with stakeholders• Apply the mitigation hierarchy to achieve no net loss of biodiversity or better
<p data-bbox="1052 1029 1187 1078">Value Chain {B10}</p> 	<ul data-bbox="1256 1043 2219 1172" style="list-style-type: none">• Map value chain actors and ensure traceability to prioritise and inform action
<p data-bbox="1062 1200 1161 1249">Portfolio {B12}</p> 	<ul data-bbox="1256 1215 2160 1258" style="list-style-type: none">• Assess biodiversity impacts and dependencies



Level of business decision-making	Purpose of measurement	Method categories				
		Location-based observations	Participatory mapping and monitoring	Spatial analysis	Life cycle approaches	Macro-scale environmental economic models

Operations Business operations that take place in sites under the direct control of the business entity		➡➡	➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		➡➡	➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		➡➡	➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		➡➡	➡➡	➡➡➡	✗	✗
Value chain Activities beyond the direct control of an individual business entity, involving suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and customers		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗	✗
Corporate A business or group of business entities, typically within an industry, which is governed as a single organization		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	✗➡➡	✗	✗
Portfolio A group of investments owned by a financial institution or a group of business units owned by a conglomerate		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	➡➡➡	✗➡➡
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	✗➡➡	➡➡➡	✗
		✗➡➡	✗➡➡	✗➡➡	✗	✗

KM.5 Existing methods, knowledge and data for measuring impacts and dependencies already, and can further inform decisions and actions, directly and in the value chain.

KM.6 Different methods to measure and manage impacts and dependencies are needed for different sectors, levels of decision-making and business purposes.

Purpose of measurement	Level of applicability
Screening: identifying priorities requiring further analysis or action	Available and applicable
Comparing options: evaluating potential impacts and dependencies of business activities relative to alternatives	Proceed with caution: methods can be applied provided sufficient accuracy, coverage and responsiveness
Tracking potential changes in impacts/dependencies: measuring change in pressures over time as part of an impact assessment, or the change in reliance of business activities on nature's contributions to people over time as part of a dependency assessment	Not currently feasible
Observing change in nature: showing positive or negative changes in biodiversity and nature's contributions to people that can be attributed or linked to the business activities or action on biodiversity	Not applicable



KM.7 Appropriate methods to measure and manage business impacts and dependencies can be selected based on **coverage**, **accuracy** and **responsiveness**.



Coverage refers to both the geographic scale as well as the extent of impacts and dependencies included



Accuracy is the degree to which the results correctly describe what they are designed to measure

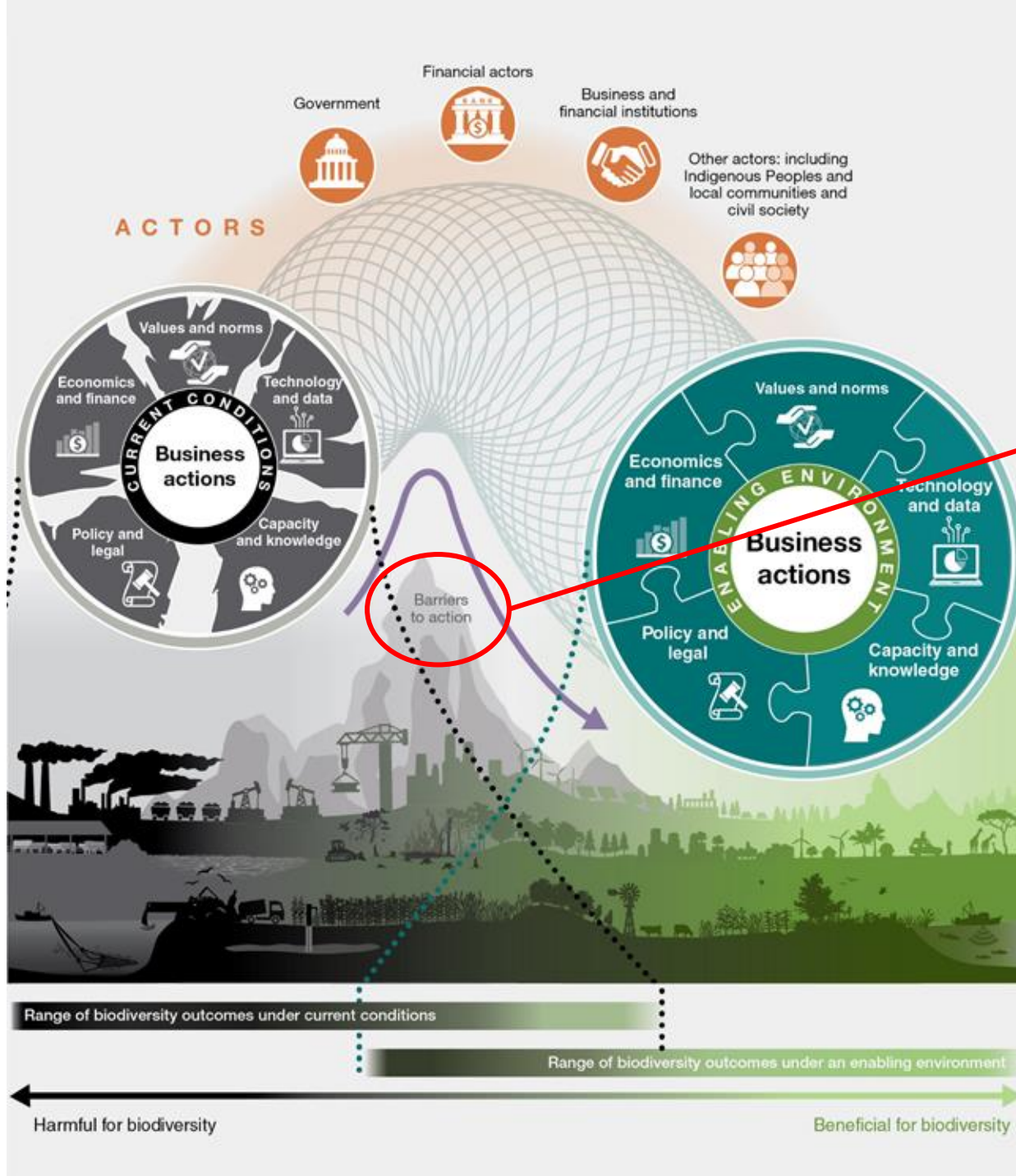


Responsiveness refers to the ability of the method to detect changes that can be attributed to the actions and activities of the business



KM.8 Businesses could better measure and manage their impacts and dependencies by appropriately engaging with science and Indigenous and local knowledge, methods and practices.

KM.9 The existing knowledge base needs to be strengthened by addressing important gaps in knowledge and its application.



Action is limited by **systemic barriers** such as profit-driven business models and economic systems that measure progress in gross domestic product, weak policy incentives, limited access to financial resources and data or knowledge gaps.

KM.10 Creating an enabling environment can incentivise actions that are beneficial for businesses, biodiversity and society for a just and sustainable future

Creation of an enabling environment that provides incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people **could align what is profitable with what is good for biodiversity and society**



Change is possible. Through collaboration, collective and individual actions we can all create an enabling environment where businesses contribute to a just and sustainable future.



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#IPBES12

Thank you!

To the media
release





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Questions?

