

Biodiversity Guidance to accompany the Natural Capital Protocol Introduction to Consultation

16 March 2020 – 1 May 2020

Background

The Natural Capital Protocol (the Protocol) is an internationally accepted, standardized framework to help generate trusted, credible and actionable information that business managers need to inform decisions.

Through the development of the Protocol, it became obvious that biodiversity was one of the most difficult areas to include due to its complexity; it was often misunderstood, and a contested area with little consistency in application.

This draft version of the Biodiversity Guidance has been developed to accompany the Protocol and enable businesses to better incorporate biodiversity into natural capital assessments and decision-making. The Guidance builds on the Protocol and consolidates existing materials rather than seeking to create new tools or methods. It covers terrestrial, freshwater and marine realms; to address a variety of decision-making contexts.

This is your opportunity to offer feedback and contribute to the development of this Biodiversity Guidance.

Development

In recognition of the challenges associated with incorporating biodiversity into natural capital assessments, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI) has led a Capitals Coalition project to develop the Biodiversity Guidance.

The Guidance has been developed through a collaborative process which began in July 2017. The project has been through an engagement and scoping process with the wider community, via an online survey and workshops, that highlighted the need for supplementary guidance to support businesses in understanding why and how biodiversity should be integrated into natural capital assessments. The project has also been supported throughout by a Steering Group, covering many different stakeholder perspectives.

The consultation that is now underway will enable a wider range of organizations to contribute to the development process. We recognize that to produce guidance that is useful and fit-for-purpose, we must gather experience and expertise from across our broad range of stakeholders.

This consultation will run in parallel to businesses piloting the guidance notes, assisting in the development of case studies and feedback on the usability of the documents.

Structure

In response to feedback received in the early stages of this project, the intention is for this Guidance to form an online tool. However, during this consultation, the Guidance is presented as a series of separate documents as follows:

- Introduction and Decision Tree
- Framing Guidance
- Scoping Guidance
- Measuring and Valuing Guidance
- Application Guidance

The final stage in the development of this Guidance will be to transfer the information to an online platform. Information from each of the Guidance documents will be accessed as a user progresses through an online version of the Decision Tree.

Consultation Objectives

1. To provide an opportunity for a wide range of organizations and experts to contribute to the content and development of the Biodiversity Guidance.
2. To gather input from:
 - Public online consultation
 - Pilot testing program
3. To build momentum and increase endorsement for integrating biodiversity into natural capital assessments and decision-making.

Public online consultation: Collaborase

The public consultation will be run through an online consultation platform called Collaborase. Collaborase facilitates transparency, allowing comments to stay visible to everyone and collected in one place, facilitating open engagement and dialogue.

PLEASE SEE THE BELOW ANNEX FOR COLLABORASE USE INSTRUCTIONS.

For clarity and ease of use, we have set up individual collaboration spaces for each of the Guidance documents. **You will need to register for each using the links below.** When you have registered for all of them you will only need to login once and then navigate to the guidance within Collaborase.

Introduction and Decision Tree: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_decisiontree

Framing Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_framing

Scoping Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_scoping

Measuring and Valuing Guidance:
https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_measurevalue

Application Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_application

If you have previously registered for a consultation using Collaborase and you have forgotten your password please click the 'Forgot your password?' link on the [Collaborase login page](#) to reset it.

When you register for the consultation, you will be able to download a PDF of the guidance. We recommend using this PDF to help you review, but request that you submit all comments through Collaborase. There are two ways to provide input through Collaborase:

- **Provide comments:** Collaborase includes the full text of the guidance to which you can add comments at any level (word, line, section or overall). These can be classified as either:
 - Technical - any comments relating to the content of the Guidance including: concepts, diagrams, definitions, references, etc.
 - Structure - comments relating to the structure of the Guidance, i.e. moving sections, changing their levels, changing their section headings etc.
 - Style - comments relating to language or spelling in the Guidance.
 - Overarching - comments relating to the overall document.
- **Surveys:** Each section of the guidance has a corresponding survey that helps to consolidate feedback on some specific features. These can be found below each section heading. The complete list of questions included in these surveys is also included in the consultation pack.

Please note that we can only accept comments and survey responses through the Collaborase platform and not via email. We do this to ensure that all comments are collected and addressed fairly.

Participating in the consultation is on an **individual basis** (i.e. more than one person per organization may register). You can therefore choose to respond personally or on behalf of your organization. If you have run or been involved with a workshop (internal or external).

Timeline

The consultation began on March 16, 2020 and will continue until May 1, 2020. We apologize that we cannot accept comments after this date.

Following the completion of the consultation phase, the Guidance will be reviewed and revised based on the comments that we receive. The final version is intended to be available by August 2020.

Additional Resources

This consultation pack includes:

- Information on the consultation (this document)
- PDF of the Biodiversity Guidance (six files)
- Consultation survey questions

These are available to download from Collaborase, or also the [Coalition website](#).

Please contact consultation@naturalcapitalcoalition.org for any questions or queries.

Annex: Collaborase User Guide

1. Registering for Access

YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE DECISION TREE AND EACH GUIDANCE DOCUMENT SEPERATELY

Introduction and Decision Tree: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_decisiontree

Framing Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_framing

Scoping Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_scoping

Measuring and Valuing Guidance:
https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_measurevalue

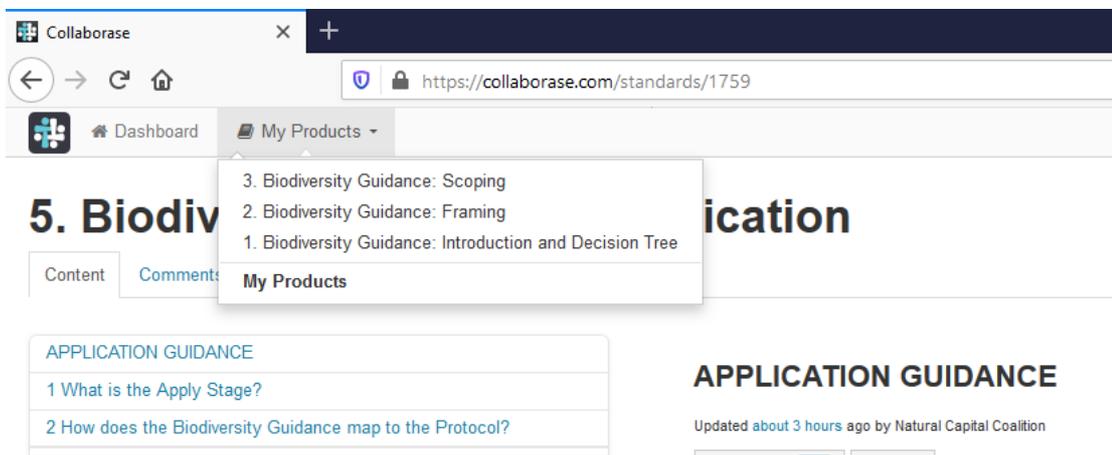
Application Guidance: https://collaborase.com/biodiversity_application

If you have not previously taken part in a Coalition consultation, once you have entered your email address at the above links you will be guided through the registration process. You will need to enter and verify your email address, and then complete some additional information (name, email, etc.) to gain access.

If you have previously taken part in a Coalition consultation you will already be registered with Collaborase, however you still need to follow the above links to link your account to this new consultation.

2. Viewing the guidance (products and content page)

You should see the “products” (collaboration spaces) when you log in, as well as any recent activity. If not, look for it under the ‘My Products’ drop down menu > ‘My Products’.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://collaborase.com/standards/1759>. The page title is "5. Biodiversity Application". A navigation menu includes "Dashboard" and "My Products". A dropdown menu is open under "My Products", listing:

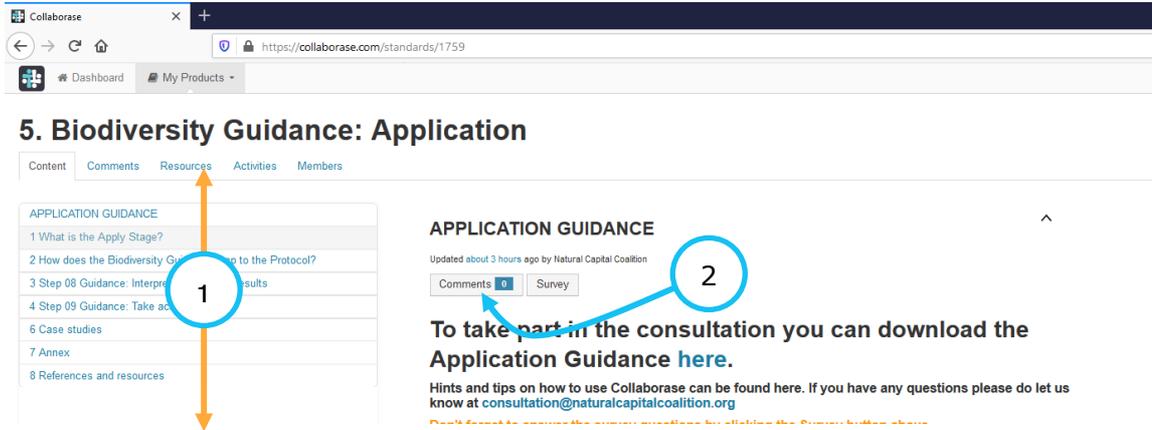
- 3. Biodiversity Guidance: Scoping
- 2. Biodiversity Guidance: Framing
- 1. Biodiversity Guidance: Introduction and Decision Tree

 Below the menu, there are tabs for "Content" and "Comments". The main content area displays "APPLICATION GUIDANCE" with a list of items:

- 1 What is the Apply Stage?
- 2 How does the Biodiversity Guidance map to the Protocol?

 To the right, there is a section titled "APPLICATION GUIDANCE" with a sub-header "Updated about 3 hours ago by Natural Capital Coalition".

Click on the title of the Guidance you want to review, and you will be able to access the content.



You should be able to view content and sections as above.

- You can navigate through the different sections of the guidance by clicking on the blue menu on the right. (1)
- Each section contains smaller subsections, which you can scroll through.

3. Comments

To leave a comment on the Guidance, click the button under the section title (number (2) in image above).

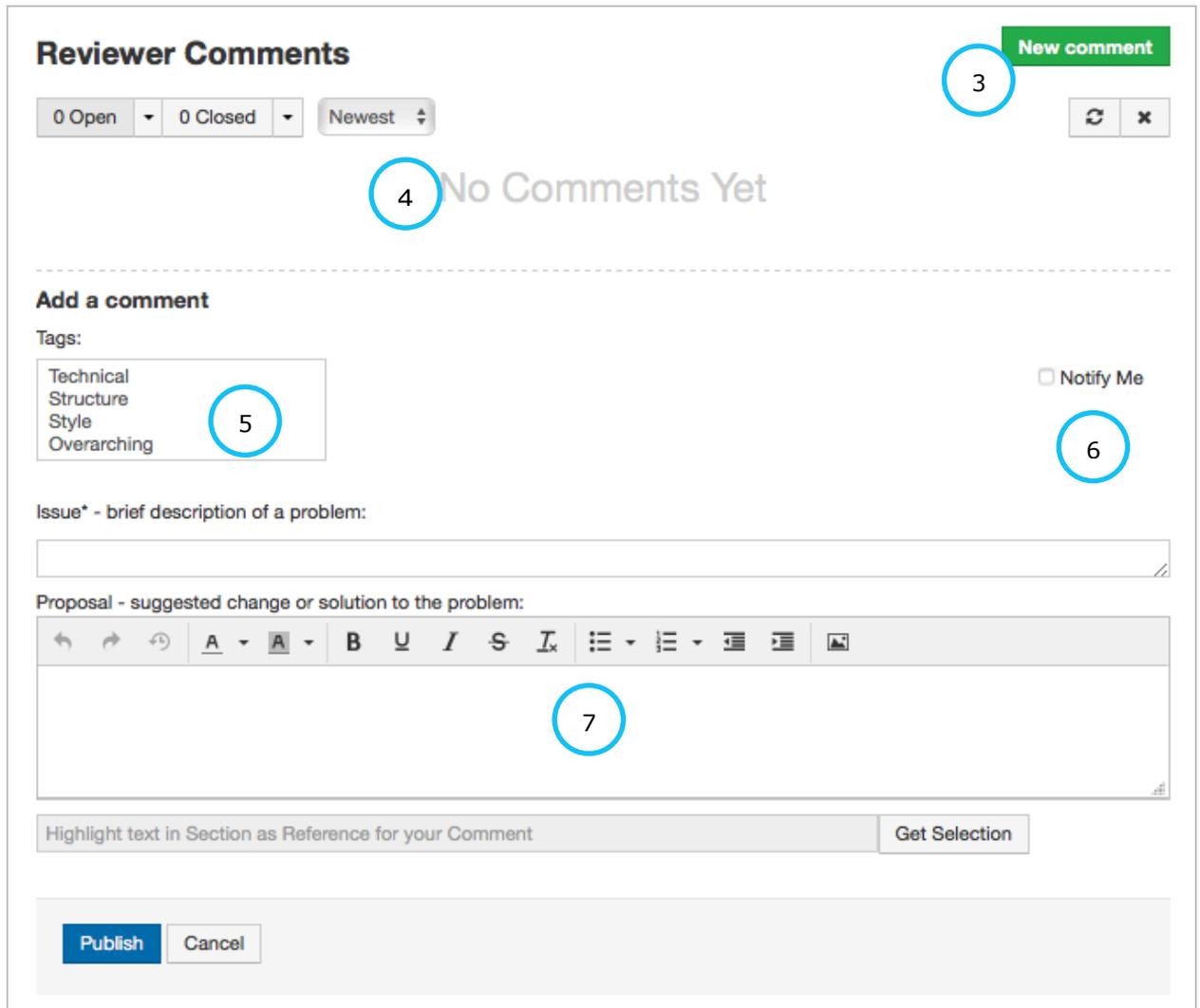
Then click the green 'New comment' button (3). (image below)

You can see previous comments by other reviewers at the top (4).

When you leave a comment, you can tag it (5) as either:

- **Technical;** i.e. whether the content is technically correct in relation to natural capital, economics or finance sector practices, or terminology is correctly used, or if a concept isn't clearly explained, etc.
- **Structure;** i.e. the order of information, accessibility.
- **Style;** i.e. use of language, tone
- **Overarching;** i.e. general observations or suggestions for the section

If you would like to receive updates when other reviewers comment on this section, you can opt to receive email notifications (6).



Reviewer Comments New comment 3

0 Open ▾ 0 Closed ▾ Newest ▾ ↺ ✕

4 No Comments Yet

Add a comment

Tags:

Technical
Structure
Style
Overarching

5

Notify Me 6

Issue* - brief description of a problem:

Proposal - suggested change or solution to the problem:

↶ ↷ ↺ **A** ▾ **A** ▾ **B** U *I* ~~S~~ *I*_x ☰ ▾ ☰ ▾ ☰ ▾ ☰ ▾ 

7

Highlight text in Section as Reference for your Comment Get Selection

Publish Cancel

Type your comment in the box (7).

You can link your comment to a particular paragraph, line or word within the section. This is highly useful for specific comments about terminology or style.

- Highlight the text you would like to refer to
- Click 'Get Selection' (8) (image below)

Issue* - brief description of a problem:

Proposal - suggested change or solution to the problem:

Why not supporting?

provisioning, regulating, and cultural 8 Get Selection

9 Publish Cancel

Natural capital dependencies for the forest products sector span all categories of ecosystem service, including provisioning, regulating, and cultural services. Table 1.2 focuses upon some of the critical dependencies relevant to the sector. The raw material stage in a value chain typically interacts with nature directly through tree production

Click 'publish' to make your comment visible to others (9).

You can view, search and filter all comments, by clicking on the bar at the top of the page (10).



5. Biodiversity Guidance: Application

Content **Comments** Resources Activities Members

All Comments: Main 10

Select Tag Search View All Newest

Filters 0 results

4. Surveys

Each Guidance document has corresponding survey questions, found next to the comment button (11) in the first section of each Guidance note. **Please note, the introduction/Decision Tree collaboration space has two surveys as the overarching questions are also included here.**

APPLICATION GUIDANCE ^

Updated about 3 hours ago by Natural Capital Coalition

Comments **0** Survey **11**

To take part in the consultation you can download the Application Guidance [here](#).

Hints and tips on how to use Collaborase can be found [here](#). If you have any questions please do let us know at consultation@naturalcapitalcoalition.org

The survey questions are designed to help us improve the guidance. Most questions are multiple choice, but if you think something could be improved, please use the corresponding text box (12) to offer suggestions or alternatives.

APPLICATION GUIDANCE ^

Updated about 3 hours ago by Natural Capital Coalition

Comments **0** Close Survey

The guidance clearly explains how to take action (for example company decisions, or setting targets) as a result of a biodiversity-inclusive natural capital assessment.

- Fully agree
- Mostly agree
- Partially agree
- Disagree

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5. Resources

You can download the full consultation pack under the resources tab.