

Business and biodiversity

Title: Business and biodiversity: dependencies, responsibilities and protection measures

Biodiversity, life on earth, is under massive decline. Planet earth finds itself in a sixth wave of mass extinction, the first one since the dinosaurs went extinct, and the first one to be caused by human action. The direct drivers are mainly land use, overexploitation and climate change, but also pollution and spread of invasive species. This has been known for long, but was brought to more general attention again through the global assessment of biodiversity from IPBES in April 2019 (<https://www.ipbes.net/global-assessment-report-biodiversity-ecosystem-services>). As all the drivers are linked in some way to production and consumption patterns, companies are key actors in making the alarming pace of biodiversity loss come to a halt. All companies that in some way depend on biodiversity and the ecosystems services it is a prerequisite for, are moreover threatened by the ongoing loss.

The aim of this thesis project is twofold: 1) to investigate through in-depth interviews how companies look upon their dependence of and responsibility for biodiversity, and what measures they may have in mind to protect biodiversity, and 2) how they could be motivated to engage in and act through an existing biodiversity hub such as Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre (GGBC) (<https://ggbc.gu.se/>).

The initial phase of the project would include a literature review on biodiversity loss in general, and more specifically on the role of businesses in this process, framing of research questions, and a selection of companies based on their impact and/or dependency on biodiversity. The project would then proceed as a series of in-depth interviews aimed at finding the answers to the two research aims. SWOT analysis could be used as a framework for the interviews but also more open approaches could be chosen.

The master's thesis is part of the activities in GGBC.

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