From ambition to action: the role of standards in building resilience through nature



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Nature is becoming a strategic issue

Nature underpins resilient economies, communities and supply chains.

- Nature is increasingly being recognised not as an isolated sustainability issue, but as a strategic consideration for long-term resilience.
- A gap remains between ambition and action.



A role for standards

Nature challenges often sit **between organisations rather than within them**.

Standards can help create a shared language through:

- Common terminology and definitions
- Agreed principles & methodologies
- Consistent indicators and metrics
- Robust approaches to evidence and claims



Helping organisations turn nature ambitions into action that is consistent, measurable and credible.

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Standards in practice

Organisation



Standards help nature-related issues be incorporated into governance and decision-making

ISO 17298 Biodiversity in organizations

ISO 140001 Environmental management systems

Projects



Standards helps guide how biodiversity can be considered in project planning, delivery and evaluation

ISO 17620 Biodiversity net gain

Measurement



Standards guide how to identify and assess dependencies, impacts, risks, opportunities

turning the TNFD LEAP approach into ISO 26239

ISO 14054 Natural capital accounting

Markets



Standards support credible projects, investments and claims

BSI Flex 701, 702, 703, 704 and 705.

Nature Positive Initiative indicators

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Building confidence in nature investment

BSI's Nature Investment Standards Programme, supported by DEFRA, develops standards that build trust and integrity in nature markets.

Suite of standards

- **Flex 701:** overarching principles that should apply to high-integrity nature investment
- **Flex 702:** expectations for biodiversity-related projects
- **Flex 703:** nature-based carbon
- **Flex 704:** nutrient-related projects
- **Flex 705:** community engagement and benefits.

Together, the standards are intended to create:

- a more consistent basis for designing projects;
- assessing integrity;
- communicating with investors, buyers, communities and other stakeholders.

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BSI’s role: creating the shared infrastructure for action

From UK expertise to international standards

National Standards Body

- MoU with Government
- Independent & non regulatory
- Develop voluntary standards
- National committees formed of UK experts

BSI convenes experts

- Government
- Businesses
- Researchers
- NGOs
- Practitioners

International Influence

- BSI represents UK interests in international standards setting
- UK stakeholders shape European and international standards

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Standards need experts

Standards are only as good as the evidence and expertise that shape them.

- Biodiversity data helps us understand what is happening.
- Standards help turn that understanding into consistent decisions and action.
- Collaboration ensures that those approaches remain credible, practical and responsive.

Join us

- Contribute evidence and technical expertise through committees and working groups
- Review drafts through public consultation
- Test whether requirements are practical in different contexts
- Help identify where consistency is useful and where flexibility is essential
- Advise on data quality, baselines, monitoring and uncertainty

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Thank you

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