



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Nature Action 100 Company Benchmark

Nature Action 100 is seeking an expert consultant or consulting firm to provide research and analysis on corporate performance on nature-related issues.

Deadline for submissions: February 18, 2024

Background

[Nature Action 100](#) is a global investor engagement initiative focused on driving greater corporate ambition and action to reverse nature and biodiversity loss. Conceived by a group of institutional investors, it aims to achieve this by mobilizing investors to establish a common high-level agenda for engagements and a clear set of expectations to drive greater corporate ambition and action to stem nature and biodiversity loss. Specifically, the initiative:

- Coordinates, informs, and supports engagements between investors and company executives and board members;
- Details ambitious actions that need to be undertaken by companies to protect and restore nature; and
- Tracks the progress of companies against key benchmark indicators and provides annual progress updates.

To date, [more than 200 institutional investors](#), representing over \$28 trillion in assets under management or advice from around the world, participate in Nature Action 100. Investor Participants are engaging with [100 companies](#) in eight key sectors that are deemed to be systemically important in reversing nature and biodiversity loss by 2030. The initial sectors included in the initiative are biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, chemicals, household and personal goods, consumer goods retail, food, food and beverage retail, forestry and packaging, and metals and mining. These sectors are major drivers of nature loss due to their large impacts on habitat loss and overexploitation of resources, and their contribution to soil, water, and solid waste pollution.

Nature Action 100 is not itself an organization, a legal entity, nor a shareholder in its own right. Instead, it operates as an initiative launched and organized by four partner organizations. Ceres and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) co-lead both the Secretariat and the Corporate Engagement Working Group (CEWG). Finance for Biodiversity Foundation and Planet Tracker co-lead the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Because Nature Action 100 is not an independent legal entity, the consultant will be contracted by Ceres, and will work under the guidance of the CEWG.

Project Scope and Objectives

Nature Action 100 has an accompanying Company Benchmark. The purpose of the Benchmark is to assess the performance of [Nature Action 100 companies](#) against the initiative's [Investor Expectations for Companies](#). Nature Action 100 will annually assess company performance against the metrics that comprise the Benchmark.

Under the guidance of the CEWG, the consultant will conduct an analysis of publicly available information pertaining to the corporate performance of all Nature Action 100 companies, to assess their performance against the Benchmark. The draft Benchmark is comprised of six indicators, 17 sub-indicators, and 58 metrics. For an example of a similar Benchmark, see the [Climate Action 100+ Company Benchmark Disclosure Framework](#).

Activities

Phase 1:

- Develop a process and tracking system, which is accessible to and developed in collaboration with the CEWG, for collecting, analyzing, and recording data;
- Locate corporate public disclosures (including, for example, annual reports, sustainability and ESG reports, 10k filing reports, and CDP disclosures) for evidence of progress and performance on nature-related issues contained within the Benchmark; and
- Compile and record relevant public disclosures in a data tracking system.

Phase 2:

- Analyze corporate public disclosures to assess company performance against all metrics in the Benchmark, in a consistent and impartial manner; and
- Record assessment results in a data tracking system. This will include a determination of whether each company satisfies the assessment criteria for each metric, in addition to the rationale and basis for each conclusion. In the case of certain metrics, the consultant may also be required to record additional qualitative data pertaining to their assessment of company performance, as considered necessary by the CEWG (for example, the types of nature-related targets that companies have set).

Once data analysis under Phase 2 is complete, the CEWG will consult with all companies to allow them to highlight any additional relevant materials that were not considered during the company assessment.

Phase 3:

- Conduct further analysis as necessary, taking into account any additional relevant materials provided by companies following consultation upon completion of Phase 2; and

Throughout all phases, the consultant shall:

- Monitor, evaluate and provide systematic feedback on processes to collect, analyze and record data and relevant documentation;
- Refine the scoring guidance by providing feedback on assessment criteria, as necessary;
- Meet with the CEWG once a week to share progress and discuss as necessary; and
- Use and document rigorous quality control procedures to ensure data accuracy and consistent application of assessment criteria between companies.

Deliverables

The consultant will provide a dataset (e.g., in an Excel workbook) analyzing the performance of all 100 companies against each of the metrics in the Benchmark. This dataset will include an assessment of whether each company satisfies the assessment criteria for each metric, in addition

to the rationale and data source for each conclusion. For specific metrics agreed upon with the CEWG, the consultant will also provide supplemental information as necessary.

Proposed Timeline

This is estimated to be a seven-month project from March to October 2024, with interim deliverables and key milestones as follows:

Deadline	Task
March 22, 2024	Consultant finalizes data collection and storage system, which is accessible to and developed in collaboration with the CEWG.
June 15, 2024	Consultant completes company data collection and assessment using Benchmark methodology.
July 31, 2024	Companies share any additional relevant materials not considered during initial analysis.
August 16, 2024	Consultant submits final company data, revised to incorporate any additional relevant materials shared by companies.

Duration of Duration

The contract will run from March to October 2024. As the Benchmark will be updated on a rolling basis over annual cycles, there will be scope to renew the contract with mutual agreement.

Proposals Should Include

- Proposed project plan, including milestones, interim, and completion dates;
- Names and short bios of members of the team, their proposed roles, and proportional contribution of time to be committed to the project;
- Overview of knowledge and experience working on corporate nature-related issues;
- Overview of knowledge and experience working on data collection exercises for corporate data;
- Overview of planned procedures to ensure data quality;
- Cost estimate with breakdown of budget (including hourly rates);
- Details of previous or similar work; and
- Two reference names from similar projects with NGOs.

Proposals should not exceed 30 pages in length.

Contact Information and Application

Please submit a proposal in an email to Carolyn Ching (cching@ceres.org) and Norah Berk (nberk@IIGCC.org) by 5 pm EST February 18, 2024. The successful applicant will be required to fill out a vendor information form.