



Item 04 – GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity – Proposed members for the technical committee

For GSSB information - work in progress

Date	19 October 2021
Meeting	21 October 2021
Project	GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity
Description	<p>The Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) has identified the review of <i>GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016</i> as a priority project for commencement in 2021.</p> <p>This paper presents an update of the proposed Technical Committee composition for information of the GSSB. Please note that at this stage, nominations from the business, investment institution and labor constituencies are still being confirmed.</p> <p>Within two weeks we expect the nominations to be confirmed. The GSSB will receive an updated proposed Technical Committee composition for approval by means of an electronic vote.</p>

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1. Background

The GSSB approved the [project proposal for the GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity](#) following its meeting on 23 September 2021.

In line with the GSSB's [Due Process Protocol](#), the GSSB confirmed its intention to form a multi-stakeholder Technical Committee (TC) to provide technical advice for the development of the revised Topic Standard.

The GRI Standards Division (Standards Division) prepared the Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee, taking into account GSSB's recommendations on the qualifications of TC members raised during its meeting on 1 July 2021 (see Item 05 – GRI Topic Standards Project for Biodiversity – Technical Committee terms of reference).

This document presents the proposed Technical Committee composition for information and discussion by the GSSB. At this stage, 13 candidates have confirmed their availability and interest in participating to the Technical Committee. Nominations are still pending from the business enterprise, investment institution and labor constituencies. Once these nominations are confirmed, the GSSB will receive an updated proposed Technical Committee composition for approval by electronic voting.

2. Selection process and criteria

In line with the due process protocol, Technical Committee (TC) members are appointed by the GSSB and they should reflect a balance of multi-stakeholder constituencies. The TC will aim to have at least one person drawn from each of the constituencies on which the membership of the GSSB is based: business enterprise, civil society, investment institution, labor, and mediating institution.

The principal criterion for selecting TC members relevant knowledge and experience relating to business and biodiversity, including ecosystems. This includes familiarity with the goals and targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and experience in identifying and measuring impacts of businesses on biodiversity.

In addition, the following criteria will be considered:

- relevant knowledge of sustainability reporting on biodiversity;
- familiarity with the needs of users of sustainability reports;
- related experience with multi-stakeholder initiatives;
- understanding of and willingness to work in a consensus-based, multi-stakeholder working group.

32 The Standards Division aimed to ensure that the proposed composition represents a balanced
33 set of perspectives and expertise in different content-related areas, including:

- 34 • development of reporting guidelines and metrics for biodiversity;
- 35 • research in biodiversity reporting practices and stakeholders' information needs;
- 36 • knowledge in various content areas, e.g., land use change, impacts on marine environment,
37 access and benefit sharing;
- 38 • different backgrounds in economic, environmental, and social fields;
- 39 • knowledge and development of relevant authoritative instruments such as post-2020 global
40 biodiversity framework issued by the Convention on Biological Diversity and IPBES
41 assessments.

42 The Standards Division also aimed to ensure alignment where possible with other relevant initiatives
43 for biodiversity reporting.

44 The proposed TC membership includes 17 to 19 members across the following constituencies:

- 45 • Business enterprises: 2 candidates representing the cosmetic and chemical sectors
46 and 2 pending candidates from the extractives and agri-food sectors.
- 47 • Civil Society: 4 candidates
- 48 • Investment institutions: 1 candidate and 2 pending candidates
- 49 • Mediating Institutions: 6 candidates
- 50 • Labor: 1 or 2 pending candidates

51 Geographical distribution of membership, gender and cultural diversity are also considerations.
52 However, the proposed TC composition has a strong representation from the North American and
53 European regions, where most of the expertise is concentrated. The Standards Division is pursuing
54 nominations of experts from other regions and will ensure that other regional views are represented
55 during the public comment period.

3. Proposed Technical Committee Composition

57 Table 1. Proposed Technical Committee Composition (confirmed candidates)

#	Name	Title	Organization	Constituency	Region	Extract of background and experience
1	Raphaëlle Archambeaud-Sicot	Sustainability Director	L'OCCITANE Group	Business Enterprise	Europe	Raphaëlle Archambeaud joined L'OCCITANE en Provence brand in 2008 for its values, its environmental commitments and community investment. She spent then 10 years in International Marketing for the brand, up to the position of Skincare Director where she initiated a new ambition and dynamic for the brands environmental and social commitments. In 2018, she took the position of Sustainability Director for the Group to extend this strategy and ambition to the whole company (6 brands, 90 distribution countries, 3 production facilities) – and started at the same time a Master in Sustainability Management in Geneva Business School. She is also a volunteer facilitator of Climate Fresk, a workshop to explain Climate change, its causes and consequences and use it to raise awareness on her professional and personal networks.
2	Simon Gobert	Sustainability Performance and Reporting Manager	DSM	Business Enterprise	Europe	Simon is responsible for external reporting of DSM's Sustainability performance and ensuring that we continuously improve our sustainability performance. He is the Sustainability manager for DSM's Integrated Annual Report, where he is responsible for reporting in compliance with the GRI Standards: Comprehensive option. DSM's Annual Report is subject to a Reasonable assurance engagement which Simon leads on the DSM side. He is part of DSM's working group on biodiversity, which is currently investigating the use of improving the use of digital tooling to measure our proximity to, and impact on, biodiversity. This group would be closely engaged for the revision of the biodiversity standard. In 2022, DSM aims to appoint a biodiversity lead. At this time, Simon would evaluate, together with GRI, the most valuable and appropriate path forward regarding participation in the Technical Committee.
3	Gerard Bos	Director of the Global Business and	IUCN	Civil Society	Europe	Gerard Bos is Director of the Global Business and Biodiversity Programme at the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2012. He is passionate for driving Transformational Change through multi-sector collaborative platforms with the aim to challenge current and future business models of the

		Biodiversity Programme				<p>corporate sector. In order to get to a sustainable world that values and conserves nature, decision makers in business, civil and government need to systematically explore how to avoid or mitigate any negative impact and optimize the opportunities to scale up the positive impact on people and nature. This is at the heart of the Business engagement strategy at IUCN.</p> <p>He believes valuing Natural Capital and integrating Nature-based Solutions in corporate decision making are two critical next big game changer toward a more sustainable future.</p> <p>Gerard's career started in the banking world followed by many years in finance, procurement and supply chain roles in the building materials sector. He has working experience on all continents, lived in many countries and speaks fluently five languages.</p>
4	Rebekah Church	Global Lead Biodiversity Stewardship	WWF	Civil Society	Europe	<p>As an environmental lawyer and advisor with over a decade of experience in biodiversity conservation, sustainability and corporate governance Rebekah has extensive experience identifying, assessing and measuring the impacts of business on nature. In her role as WWF's Global Lead Biodiversity Stewardship she is leading the development and implementation of a corporate biodiversity stewardship management framework. This work also includes the development of tools to help the private sector understand and manage the risks and opportunities they may face in relation to their biodiversity impacts and dependencies. The stewardship framework guides corporate engagement on biodiversity risk and opportunity analysis, and the development of business cases, implementation strategies, goals, targets, and KPIs. She is also supporting the WWF Network in integrating the biodiversity stewardship approach into corporate partnerships to support the analysis of biodiversity risk linked to value chain activities; the avoidance and mitigation of risks via meaningful strategies, goals and science-based targets for nature; investment into positive biodiversity impact; and the monitoring, reporting and public disclosure of biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>From 2018 to 2021 Rebekah acted as Senior Counsel, Sustainability and Climate Change for BMO Financial Group. In this role she initiated the development of an industry-leading biodiversity framework for the 8th largest bank in North America. This work included evaluating biodiversity impacts throughout the value chain (including impacts related to corporate client operations across a variety of sectors), as well as engaging with the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative to align lending and investment portfolios with international biodiversity targets. She also</p>

						<p>participated in the Biodiversity Working Group of the Equator Principles Association, and acted as Chair of the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative, an organization seeking to develop best practices for biodiversity conservation in the extractive industries. In this role Rebekah supported the production of BMO's public disclosures on sustainability issues, including meeting requirements under GRI, CDP, SASB, TCFD and emerging regulations made pursuant to the EU Sustainable Finance Action Plan.</p> <p>From 2012 to 2018, in her role as Policy Lead, Environmental Protection with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, she provided cutting-edge research and thought leadership on biodiversity conservation.</p>
5	Sue Mulhall	Global Lead, Business and Biodiversity Partnerships	BirdLife International	Civil Society	Asia	
6	Alexandra Sangmeister	Director	Marine Watch International	Civil Society	North America	<p>Alexandra is the Founder and Executive Director of Marine Watch International. MWI's mission is to protect the oceans by promoting the sharing of information and fostering collaboration among people and organizations working in ocean conservation around the world. MWI partnered with the Foundation Center to launch FundingtheOcean.org, an online knowledge hub designed to track, inform and inspire ocean conservation philanthropy. Alexandra has over 30 years of experience in conservation, development, and international scientific research. Organizations that she has worked for include the Smithsonian Institution, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco Zoo, The Marine Mammal Center, and WildAid. For the last five years, she has also worked in Data Services for a financial technology company, SS&C Advent. Advent is a leading provider of portfolio management and accounting solutions and services to the world's leading institutional asset and wealth management firms. She recently completed the Sustainable Capitalism and ESG Certification at Berkeley Law.</p>
7	Garo Batmanian	Global Lead for Forests, Landscape Biodiversity	World Bank	Investment institutions	North America	<p>Garo is the Global Lead for Forests, Landscape Biodiversity responsible for coordinating the implementation of an integrated green agenda. Garo coordinates manages the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN), and the Forest Investment Program (FIP). Garo is the World Bank focal point on the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), Convention on Biological Diversity, the Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF),</p>

						<p>and the chair of the Finance Task Force of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.</p> <p>He has previously worked in the World Bank offices in Brazil and China. Garo has extensive experience in environmental management, forestry, carbon finance, and rural development and has led or been involved in the Bank's analytic work and lending operations focusing on environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Earlier in his career, he was the LAC Program Director of WWF-USA, and the first CEO of the Worldwide Fund for Nature Brazil (WWF-Brazil). Garo is also the founder of FSC-Brazil, served as its first chairman and led the process of developing national standards for natural forest management in the Amazon and for plantations.</p> <p>Garo holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia, USA.</p>
8	Professor Jan Bebbington	Professor, Centre Director	Lancaster University	Mediating Institutions	Europe	<p>Jan Bebbington works at Lancaster University and published on topics such the Sustainable Development Goals; sustainability science; motivations and rationales for standalone reporting; carbon accounting; sustainability assessment and accounting education. Jan is involved in a long-term collaboration between ecologists and sustainability scientists at the Stockholm Resilience Centre that aims to provide knowledge to a practice-based cohort of seafood companies who are seeking to actively contribute to ocean stewardship (focusing on SDG 14 – Life Below the Water). The project is yielding insight into the differences between accountability and stewardship as well as the issues in establishing organizational control over supply chains and reporting meaningfully on performance.</p> <p>Alongside her academic work, Jan has also contributions to the practice and policy communities in a variety of roles including, for example, being the Vice Chair (Scotland) of the Sustainable Development Commission from 2006 to 2011. The role of the Commission (a part of the UK Government) was to promote sustainable development across the UK and all sectors of society, particularly within Government. In 2021 Jan was part of a panel of experts for the Intergovernmental Panel of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Business and Biodiversity working group.</p>
9	Sharon Brooks	Deputy Head of Business and Biodiversity	UNEP-WCMC	Mediating Institutions	Europe	<p>Sharon Brooks is Deputy Head of Business and Biodiversity at UNEP-WCMC. Sharon oversees a portfolio of work with an emphasis on nature related metrics, targets and data for business, and has experience with a range of industry sectors including extractives, agriculture, and finance. Sharon has led projects related to</p>

						private sector standards, methods, and tools to assess, monitor and report on biodiversity throughout value chains, including prior work with GRI on developing an approach for reporting on ecosystem services. Sharon has over 20 years of experience in international conservation, an MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation, and a PhD in the field of Conservation and Development.
10	Annelisa Grigg	Director	Global Balance	Mediating Institutions	Europe	<p>Annelisa has more than 20 years of experience advising companies and civil society on the business risks and opportunities associated with the loss of nature. She combines a technical background in conservation biology with financial accounting knowledge. She started her career as a sustainability consultant with accounting firm KPMG, later working in leadership roles within environmental groups Fauna & Flora International and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).</p> <p>Annelisa recently spearheaded efforts to create broad agreement on corporate biodiversity indicators creating the Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business Initiative.</p> <p>Annelisa now specializes in the integration of biodiversity into natural capital assessments, corporate biodiversity indicators and disclosure and the integration of biodiversity into business strategy and financial decision making. She is a long-term advisor to Aviva on the inclusion of biodiversity criteria within its stewardship fund range.</p> <p>Annelisa has an M.Phil. in Environment and Development and a B.A. in Zoology from Cambridge University.</p>
11	Thomas Maddox	Global Director for Forests and Land	CDP	Mediating Institutions	Europe	<p>Thomas has worked on the interface between business and the environment for twenty years. He has a Ph.D. in ecology from University College, London and an MBA from the University of Cambridge Judge Business School and currently works for CDP as the Global Director for Forests and Land. In this role he is responsible for the CDP Forests Questionnaire and the various projects associated with this, including major grants from NORAD and USAID. He also plays a key role in the development of CDP's strategy, including the expansion of CDP's remit to incorporate a broader definition of environmental impact. This includes direct responsibility for the incorporation of biodiversity into the disclosure cycle – a process that was initiated in 2021.</p>

						As part of this, he is a member of the CDSB Biodiversity Technical Working Group and also works closely with the SBTN. He previously initiated and coordinated a project that subsequently evolved into the ALIGN project for standardising approaches to measuring corporate biodiversity impacts. Thomas also has a long history of working with standards bodies. He is a current board member for Responsible Steel and for the Roundtable for Responsible Soy and has previously been actively involved in a variety of voluntary environmental industry standards.
12	Maria Julia Oliva	Deputy Director	UEBT	Mediating Institutions	Europe	Maria Julia Oliva is Deputy Director of the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT). She's been with UEBT for over 12 years and, in addition to her role in senior management, coordinates training, advisory services and technical support for UEBT members and partners on policy and legal issues such as access and benefit sharing, due diligence, and community engagement. Julia has held several positions in international organisations and published widely on the interface between sustainability, trade and intellectual property. She is part of the Board of Directors of the ISEAL Alliance. Julia has a law degree from the University of Mendoza and an LL.M in environmental law, cum laude, from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.
13	Leah Samberg	Scientist, Global Programs	Rainforest Alliance / Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi)	Mediating Institutions	North America	<p>Dr. Leah Samberg is a scientist with the Rainforest Alliance's Global Policy team. She works as part of the Accountability Framework Initiative's Backbone Team, where she leads the AFi's activities on monitoring, disclosure, and linkages between deforestation and GHG emissions.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Rainforest Alliance, Leah worked as a research scientist looking at links between smallholder farming, livelihoods, and conservation, including for University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, the Nature Conservancy, the University of California Santa Cruz, and as a Fulbright Scholar in Ethiopia.</p> <p>Leah has a doctorate from the Environmental Studies program at UC Santa Cruz, and a BA in Ecology from Dartmouth College.</p>