



Nature Impact, Risk, and Opportunity Assessments

Creating a more resilient value chain requires work on many fronts as climate change, water scarcity, natural resource depletion and biodiversity degradation all pose increasing threats to our planet, communities and people around the world. Most companies are aware of the interconnectivity of environmental challenges and how balancing them is necessary for value chain resiliency, but they are often uncertain where to start when it comes to emerging nature-based topics, such as water and biodiversity.

Winrock International is an official NGO Partner of the [Science Based Targets Network](#) and has joined the SBTN's Corporate Engagement Program and Referral List. Joining the SBTN enables Winrock to expand the reach of its technical assistance and project validation services in ecosystems and natural resources management to companies and others looking to develop **science-based targets to operate within planetary boundaries — not just for climate, but also for nature.**

The SBTN is a global coalition of organizations and an extension of the well-known Science Based Targets initiative, which focuses specifically on corporate climate

action. It provides guidance, tools, and methodologies for businesses to set science-based targets across multiple environmental areas, including: climate (reducing greenhouse gas emissions); freshwater (protecting and restoring water systems); land (preventing deforestation and promoting sustainable land use); biodiversity (protecting ecosystems and species); and oceans (reducing pollution and overfishing).

Following current best practice frameworks for nature, and the steps outlined by the SBTN and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, Winrock provides technical assistance to companies to complete the first three steps in the SBTN framework, including:

- 1 assessing company impacts and dependencies on nature and understanding **opportunities for nature-positive actions in supply chains**;
- 2 interpreting and prioritizing activities, including **setting targets for protecting nature and biodiversity** that reflect the unique activities and geographic locations where companies work; and
- 3 **measuring, setting and disclosing targets for freshwater and land**, including calculating and establishing baselines for how company activities impact hydrological systems and land use change within natural areas.

These insights provide companies with the next steps to know they are starting in the areas where action is most needed and have the most impact.



Winrock is an international nonprofit organization with a portfolio of agriculture, environment and social development projects around the world and in the U.S. Created 40 years ago, Winrock has extensive on-the-ground experience across Africa, Asia, and the Americas, and provides evidence-based solutions to some of the world's most complex problems. Our mission is to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.

Winrock supports healthy natural environments by developing and implementing solutions to protect natural resources, enhance ecosystem services, address climate change, and scale access to clean energy. We partner with communities, governments, civil society and the private sector to strengthen local capacity, increase equity, facilitate market-based

innovations and mobilize green finance. We help companies in the food, agriculture, tech, energy, extractives, and other sectors to understand their impact on nature, manage the interdependencies of broader aspects of sustainability, and design and execute strategies to address their impacts.

Project Example

In 2025, Winrock International collaborated with a large, multinational snack manufacturer to refine and update its annual KPIs and assessments on biodiversity and water hotspots in its supply chain using leading global screening tools. These detailed, data-driven insights not only supported the company's annual reporting, but are also helpful as the company designs programs and investments focused on building its resiliency against climate change, water stress and biodiversity loss.



APPROACH & METHODS

Winrock focuses on the intersection between biodiversity, water, climate change, and communities to offer decision-makers strategic opportunities to achieve benefits across all these aspects, using the SBTN framework¹ as a guide.

Assessing impacts on nature:

Winrock screens nature impacts and dependencies to identify which pressures on nature are material to focus on. Next, Winrock conducts a value chain assessment to map the company's biodiversity and water footprints using the leading frameworks and tools. We research the environmental conditions in the client's most material regions to provide insights for prioritizing actions and setting a risk profile. This data-driven approach considers the local and global significance of existing biodiversity, water availability, water quality, and the size of the business footprint. Winrock analyzes risks and opportunities for alignment with business priorities, enhancing understanding of the climate-nature-water connection.

Prioritizing activities and take action:

Winrock educates corporate leadership with the business case for action and hosts facilitated, multi-stakeholder workshops to co-design tangible, impactful strategies. These workshops facilitate discussion of strategies collaboratively and foster alignment on the ambition and direction of the nature action plan for the client. Business insights are incorporated to co-develop science-based practical solutions. These conversations help to set a clear course of action and cultivate early buy-in from key stakeholders on the final strategy to achieve the best outcomes for nature, people and businesses. Lastly, Winrock presents options for multi-stakeholder approaches, including private-public partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration, and provides technical advisory on potential target setting.

SERVICE OFFERING DETAILS

Winrock offers three coordinated levels of service that can be customized depending on the client's need.

Tier 1:

Biodiversity and/or Water Action Plan for direct-operations only or supplemental support on an existing plan

Winrock's basic service includes supplemental support on an existing nature strategy or a new water or biodiversity action plan starting with direct operations. This service is appropriate for companies considering or beginning to embark on understanding their direct operation's nature impacts, dependencies and opportunities, or for companies with a solid understanding and plan that are looking for assistance in the next steps in their nature journey.

Tier 2:

Biodiversity or Water Action Plan for value chain

(direct operations and supply chain)

This service entails:

1. Impacts and dependencies screening using the SBTN Materiality Screening Tool and High Impact Commodity List to identify which pressures on nature are material to focus on.
2. Value chain assessment to map the company's biodiversity or water footprint using the leading frameworks and tools.
3. Research of the environmental conditions in the client's most material regions for insights to prioritize where to act and to set a risk profile for biodiversity or water.
4. 5-8 Interviews with key stakeholders and business leaders.
5. A multi-stakeholder workshop to co-design tangible, impactful strategies through facilitated activities.
6. Options for potential partnerships in implementation.
7. Technical advisory activities on target setting.

Tier 3:

Biodiversity and Water Action Plan for value chain

(direct operations and supply chain)

This service entails:

An integrated approach to assessing biodiversity and water, which can help drive efficiency and alignment in engaging suppliers and program participants across broader sustainability objectives.

¹ <https://sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Corporate-manual-for-setting-SBT-for-Nature.pdf>