

**Webinar of 2021-10-01**

**Webinar ‘Biodiversity – harmonization through voluntary standards’**

**Questions & Answers**

*Note: the replies provided here below cannot be considered as formal positions of CEN-CENELEC.*

1	Despite many examples of nature restoration and compatibility with dynamic nature (BfN - German nature protection law), quarrying is not listed under the draft technical criteria for sustainable finance.	Thank you, noted.
2	UEPG, the European Aggregates Association provided feedback on the draft technical criteria and we hope there will be room to include quarrying.	Thank you for the question. I will check this with the colleagues dealing with the technical criteria and get back to you bilaterally.
3	Next week Sweden will launch a new "Swedish Biodiversity Data Infrastructure". Is this related to the EU work on biodiversity? Or a separate initiative? <a href="https://biodiversitydata.se/event/swedish-biodiversity-data-infrastructure-launch-event/">https://biodiversitydata.se/event/swedish-biodiversity-data-infrastructure-launch-event/</a>	I believe this is national initiative. Sweden reports back to the EU on a number of biodiversity-related indicators, and this Data Infrastructure could serve to collect such (and other) data in a coordinated, harmonised manner.
4	If you talk to people not familiar with biodiversity, these arguments are not sufficiently quantitative (in terms of economic impact)	Economic impact is one thing, our wellbeing and survival on this planet depend on healthy biodiversity. But I fully understand your point. There is a huge amount of economic data that demonstrate how much we rely on nature, but it was impossible to present in 8 minutes. An interesting landmark report - the Dasgupta Review - could be a first step to find out more.
5	Are there any planned side events on today's theme of environment, CC and standardization during COP26 in Glasgow? In that case, can you distribute the program to us participants today.	I'm not familiar with the COP26 agenda and planning (more the biodiversity COP15), but I can check that if you're interested.
6	How do we proceed to be involved into standardization? At EU level as industrial? or national level as industrial as well ?	Thank you for your interest in standardization. To be involved, we invite you first to get in contact with your National Standardization Body.

7	Will there be a CEN Standard for measuring microplastic emissions/pollution?	<p>Work is ongoing in ISO on this issue.</p> <p>There is also ongoing work at European level within CEN/TC 444 on microplastics measurements in soils.</p>
8	I wonder whether ecological connectivity is included in the standards, as I consider the connectivity key for maintaining the flow of ecosystem services, adaptation to climate change, support for biodiversity etc.	I agree, it is essential, in particular in light of climate change-related species migration, and it should be included.
9	I know the Dasgupta Report, of course. And I am aware that 8 minutes are very short. But I simply wanted to point out, that to make biodiversity conservation a mainstream topic like climate (and in my opinion it is far more relevant), the economic impact has to be stressed way more in everyday' s discussion.	See reply 4.
10	Currently my company does not focus on biodiversity issue as our main business is to produce material which is installed in final product, we do not own facilities which violate nature. But I assume in the near future biodiversity will be focal point for all organization regardless of type, size, due to the fact that we will need to take all supply chains into consideration for biodiversity protection. Am I correct?	We do aim to look at entire value chains, including from the biodiversity perspective. We are conducting some (voluntary, for the time being) work with leading businesses on how to account for their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and this looks at the whole value chain (often located in different regions of the world). Also, a new law on deforestation-free products will take this aspect into consideration (adoption planned by end 2021).
11	Why is the US not involved? Do they do something else?	<p>The United States did not wish to join ISO/TC 331 considering that biodiversity is the responsibility of ISO/TC 207 on environmental management.</p> <p>ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity has been created because it did not exist a dedicated structure to develop standards in the field of biodiversity, as a “goal in itself”.</p> <p>On the one hand, the future standards will offer concrete tools for measuring impacts and dependence on biodiversity alongside environmental management standards.</p>

		<p>On the other hand, ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity opens the path to new standardization topics/areas which are something different and complementary with management standards, such as: terminology, good practices, methodologies, solutions, evaluation tools, etc...</p> <p>In this sense, the scope of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity is wider than « management standards ».</p> <p>It seems legitimate and relevant to welcome the United States into the ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity.</p>
12	<p>'@Sylvain: in your slides you show liaisons with other Iso TC's - could you think about a liaison with CEN TC230 (water quality, more specifically to WG 28 on eDNA and DNA methods?</p>	<p>ISO/TC 331 governance has entered in contact with the person who wishes to make a liaison between CEN/TC 230/WG 28 and ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity.</p> <p>There is the possibility of setting up liaison, formally and in this case we speak of 'partner '(this implies a participation of the member of CEN/TC 230 in TC 331), or informal by inviting the member (here of CEN / TC 230) to be a member of ISO/TC 331 :</p> <p>CEN can propose a representative to the ISO committee as “partner” role. Formalized in the system.</p> <p>CEN can have representative from the current members of the committee. Informal then.</p>
13	<p>Are the work in ISO TC 331 linking with the nine planetary boundaries - e.g. developing indicators for biosphere integrity?</p>	<p>Yes, it could be part of the work of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity on indicators. This question will be discussed in the framework of ISO/TC 331 Biodiversity.</p>
14	<p>Is there any intention for CEN-CENELEC to create a new Technical Committee on Biodiversity in a more or less near future?</p>	<p>For the time being we intend to set up an ad hoc group within the framework of the Strategic Environmental Body on Environment.</p>
15	<p>Which of the standards projects currently being worked on in ISO/TC 331 does CEN intend to take over in the foreseeable future?</p>	<p>CEN is not developing these standards in parallel with ISO, therefore CEN will decide after the publication of the ISO standards which ones will be adopted as European standards.</p>