

Mainstreaming Biodiversity: A condition for transformative change

Mainstreaming biodiversity is a core objective of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. While the term might seem intuitively familiar to many, it remains poorly understood and researched. This is evident in a recent study showing that only 3 out of the Fortune Global 100 companies have articulated biodiversity objectives in SMART terms (Ermgassen et al., 2022). To foster a transformation toward a biodiversity-friendly society—both within broader societal contexts and businesses—biodiversity must become an integral part of decision-making, resource allocation, and corporate policies and procedures.

This workshop begins by clarifying the concept of mainstreaming biodiversity. We distinguish between two key approaches: horizontal mainstreaming (across value chains or networks) and vertical mainstreaming (within an organization). Additionally, we outline three foundational building blocks of biodiversity mainstreaming: Motivation, Organization, and Means (Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen et al., 2018). These concepts are illustrated through real-world examples and the challenges they present.

Following the presentation, we engage participants in an interactive session to explore these building blocks within three distinct sectors: agriculture, infrastructure, and consultancy. Through this hands-on approach, participants will not only gain a deeper understanding of what mainstreaming biodiversity entails but also explore what actionable opportunities may be to drive transformative change.