

SUSTAINABILITY & ESG

Biodiversity Support



Founded in 1974, Trinity Consultants helps organizations overcome complex, mission-critical challenges in EHS (including Sustainability & ESG), engineering and science through expertise in consulting, technology, training, and staffing. We support clients in geographies worldwide and across a broad range of sectors including industrial, energy, manufacturing, mining, life sciences, and commercial/institutional.

Biodiversity Program Support

Trinity Consultants provides comprehensive biodiversity support to companies across many industries. We help our clients build their biodiversity programs in tandem with their EHS, ESG, and sustainability programs, which increases efficiency for metric gathering and disclosure activities. With nearly 50 years of providing environmental expertise, we are qualified to support clients at any point in their biodiversity process – materiality assessment, baseline ecological analysis, Key Performance Indicator (KPI) development and monitoring, strategy development and implementation, consideration of regulatory obligations, and disclosure to and/or reporting under current ESG standards and frameworks.

The recent adoption of the beta v0.1 framework of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and its expected finalization later in 2023 has companies increasing focus on assessing and reporting their dependencies and impacts on nature and biodiversity.

Trinity's approach to company biodiversity programs strategically aligns with the approach laid out in TNFD's beta v0.1 framework.

At Trinity, we leverage our expertise to add value to biodiversity program efforts in several key areas:

- ▶ Identifying a company's material risks, opportunities, dependencies, and impacts through the lens of biodiversity, to facilitate sound business decisions both present and future
- ▶ Proactively addressing key stakeholder concerns regarding the organization's impact to biodiversity indicators from a value chain perspective
- ▶ Strategically managing biodiversity-related regulatory requirements and integrating regulatory compliance into the biodiversity program to reduce liabilities and improve competitive position

Regardless of the organization's goals or framework, biodiversity programs comprise several essential elements. Trinity supports organizations across sectors with analysis related to all areas of biodiversity programs, including:

- ▶ Development of a Corporate Biodiversity Vision and Strategy
- ▶ Assessment of ecological baselines and material risks, opportunities, dependencies, and impacts to biodiversity
- ▶ Establishment of KPIs and a KPI inventory and monitoring plan
- ▶ Creation of biodiversity strategy and action plans addressing protection, mitigation, and conservation
- ▶ Disclosure to prominent ESG platforms and frameworks such as Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project), Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- ▶ Alignment with the Task Force for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) Beta v0.1 framework

Defining Corporate Biodiversity Vision and Strategy Statement

Biodiversity vision and strategy statements are informed through the lens of historical obligations related to ecosystem impacts and management. Trinity's experience in the realm of biodiversity-related regulatory requirements provides depth to our understanding of key biodiversity elements and allows us to harness and understand our client's ongoing obligations as part of a holistic biodiversity approach. Trinity's strategic support includes:

- ▶ Assessing existing regulatory requirements (i.e., monitoring, mitigation) for individual sites, including, but not limited to Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service Requirements for Endangered and Threatened Species



- ▶ Performing a benchmarking analysis of competitors' and ESG industry leaders' biodiversity vision and strategy statements, biodiversity materiality assessments, biodiversity KPIs, Biodiversity Action Plans, and response to biodiversity related prompts within relevant ESG disclosure standards and frameworks (e.g., CDP, SASB, GRI, UN SDGs)
- ▶ Preparing a Corporate Biodiversity Vision and Strategy statement, Corporate Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and/or Site-Specific Biodiversity Action Plans
- ▶ Leveraging our strategic consulting expertise and depth of knowledge across multiple industries to support implementation and achievement of strategic biodiversity objectives

Developing Ecological Baselines and Assessing Impacts

To develop and implement biodiversity programs and associated strategies, a company must first understand how its operations affect biodiversity. Trinity utilizes internationally recognized databases to locate areas of biodiverse conservation priority, high biodiversity, ecologically sensitive areas, and legally protected areas. If an enhanced data collection process is warranted, Trinity may recommend on-site methods such as baseline ecological inventories and impact assessments to collect indicator data. In response to the assessment, Trinity documents findings and, if applicable, creates an internal register of regulatory requirements relative to identified areas.

Based on this data, an inventory of material risks, opportunities, dependencies, and impacts to biodiversity is prepared. Trinity also supports the development of controls and actions to mitigate material impacts to biodiversity, which will be incorporated within the Corporate Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and/or Site-Specific Biodiversity Action Plans.

Creating Strategies and Action Plans

Once ecological baselines and impacts are assessed, a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is created. The document highlights the comprehensive strategic approach to managing biodiversity-related risk. The plan describe how biodiversity risks, opportunities, dependencies, and impacts are identified, assessed, and managed. Biodiversity Action Plans also explore measures to avoid, minimize, and offset impacts to biodiversity through conservation and mitigation.

Measuring and Reporting Progress

Achieving strategic goals requires the development of effective KPIs. Trinity defines and identifies biodiversity-specific KPIs such as state, benefit, pressure, and response indicators, which are included in a KPI inventory. Once the KPIs are selected, a monitoring plan is developed, featuring appropriate monitoring methods for the specified KPIs. Digital target performance tracking tools may also be integrated into biodiversity programs in partnership with Trinity's Digital Solutions team.

ESG reporting involves large amounts of data collection and analysis over an extended time. Trinity helps clients select the appropriate disclosure framework as well as execute the submission or disclosure. Along the way, our expertise and support helps clients efficiently leverage their environmental obligations and reporting requirements to support their ESG disclosures. Services include:

- ▶ Evaluating established ESG reporting and disclosure frameworks (e.g., GRI, CDP, SASB, UN SDGs) and establishing the value proposition for their adoption and use in alignment with a client's biodiversity program
- ▶ Providing TNFD-specific support and alignment
- ▶ Assessing conformance with the selected disclosure framework(s)
- ▶ Supporting development of corporate ESG disclosures, either as stand-alone reports and/or to respond to external disclosure requests

Trinity Can Help

Whatever your challenge, Trinity has the experience and insights to provide intelligent solutions to optimize your environmental sustainability program. Our knowledge and expertise across a wide range of related issues makes us an excellent partner for addressing your biodiversity program needs.

For more information about how Trinity can help your organization with biodiversity programs, please contact our Sustainability & ESG team:

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ISO 9001:2015 certified at our corporate office in Dallas, Texas