



ISO/TC 331 "Biodiversity"

Secretariat: **AFNOR**

Committee Manager: **Lhuillery Caroline Mme**



**Proposal for a new field of technical activity_on biodiversity_Form 1_ISO/TSP 285
Biodiversity**

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FORM 1: PROPOSAL FOR A NEW FIELD OF TECHNICAL ACTIVITY

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Proposer AFNOR	ISO/TS/P TS/P 285

A proposal for a new field of technical activity shall be submitted to the ISO Central Secretariat, which will assign it a reference number and process the proposal in accordance with the [ISO/IEC Directives Part 1, Clause 1.5](#). The proposer may be a member body of ISO, a technical committee, subcommittee or project committee, the Technical Management Board or a General Assembly committee, the Secretary-General, a body responsible for managing a certification system operating under the auspices of ISO, or another international organization with national body membership. Guidelines for proposing and justifying a new field of technical activity are given in the [ISO/IEC Directives Part 1, Annex C](#).

Proposal (to be completed by the proposer)

Title of the proposed new committee (The title shall indicate clearly yet concisely the new field of technical activity which the proposal is intended to cover).
Biodiversity
Scope statement of the proposed new committee (The scope shall precisely define the limits of the field of activity. Scopes shall not repeat general aims and principles governing the work of the organization but shall indicate the specific area concerned).
Standardization in the field of Biodiversity to develop requirements, principles, framework, guidance and supporting tools in a holistic and global approach for all relevant organizations, to enhance their contribution to Sustainable Development.
Excluded: standardization of test and measurement methods for ecological quality of water, air, soil and marine environment.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposer has checked whether the proposed scope of the new committee overlaps with the scope of any existing ISO committee
<input type="checkbox"/> If an overlap or the potential for overlap is identified, the affected committee has been informed and consultation has taken place between proposer and committee on<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. modification/restriction of the scope of the proposal to eliminate the overlap,2. potential modification/restriction of the scope of the existing committee to eliminate the overlap.
<input type="checkbox"/> If agreement with the existing committee has not been reached, arguments are presented in this proposal (under question 7) as to why it should be approved. |
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Proposed initial programme of work. (The proposed programme of work shall correspond to and clearly reflect the aims of the standardization activities and shall, therefore, show the relationship between the subject proposed. Each item on the programme of work shall be defined by both the subject aspect(s) to be standardized (for products, for example, the items would be the types of products, characteristics, other requirements, data to be supplied, test methods, etc.). Supplementary justification may be combined with particular items in the programme of work. The proposed programme of work shall also suggest priorities and target dates.)

The proposed work programme is as follows:

1. Definition and terminology

A common and standardized core of terms and definitions will be helpful to structure and shape the various other deliverables to be developed. It will contribute to build a common understanding of concepts to support standardization work.

2. Principles and framework

This future standard will define a methodology for screening biodiversity issues. It will propose methods for impact analysis and help in defining strategic actions and their monitoring. It is intended to support organizations of any type or activities in addressing biodiversity over the whole value chain: upstream, on site, and downstream. It will help in developing action plans and to monitor their progress with new or existing tools such as indicators, inventory methods, standards for environmental bio-monitoring or biodiversity reporting.

This principles and framework standard is intended to support:

- the implementation of a holistic approach of biodiversity in all relevant organizations or groups of organizations,
- the integration of biodiversity issues in their activities,
- decision-making.

It could be used at different levels for organizations or groups of organizations, such as production sites, commercial areas, farmers' organizations, SMEs, industry groups, local communities.

3. Territory approach

The proposers advocate that addressing biodiversity necessarily implies an approach focused on territories: the protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity needs to be considered at local level. It is proposed to develop deliverables that will provide requirements and/or guidelines for the implementation of an approach of biodiversity within a specific territory. The purpose is to adapt the approach defined in the Principles and framework standard (see above) to local habitats, ecosystems, species and activities. It will address cooperation between different categories of stakeholders, e.g. communities and businesses.

4. Case studies of specific ecosystems

Technical reports will be proposed to gather case studies of biodiversity approaches implemented for specific ecosystems.

5. Guidelines on specific biodiversity issues

It is proposed to develop Guidelines covering specific biodiversity issues, such as nature-based solutions (note 1), including ecological engineering (note 2), species-related issues and technologies relevant for biodiversity.

Note 1: Nature-based Solutions (NbS): actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Note 2: Ecological engineering: Ecological engineering is contributing to the development and preservation of biodiversity thanks to long term adapted actions on selected ecosystems, considering their functionalities, the diversity of natural habitats, the different ecotypes and all interactions. These actions can apply to preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, ecosystems reallocation, renaturation

6. Biodiversity data collection and exchanges

It is proposed to develop Guidelines for biodiversity data collection and exchange, as they need to be monitored along the value-chain, in order to enable relevant and reliable approaches.

Indication(s) of the preferred type or types of deliverable(s) to be produced under the proposal (This may be combined with the "Proposed initial programme of work" if more convenient).

1. Definition and terminology (standard);
2. Principles and framework (one or more standards);
3. Territory approach (standards or technical specifications);
4. Case studies of specific ecosystems (technical reports);
5. Guidelines on specific biodiversity issues (standards or technical specifications);
6. Biodiversity data collection and exchanges (standards or technical specifications).

A listing of relevant existing documents at the international, regional and national levels. (Any known relevant document (such as standards and regulations) shall be listed, regardless of their source and should be accompanied by an indication of their significance.)

- The United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals, 13, 14, 15
- Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP): the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, New Deal for Nature, The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources, Global Biodiversity Outlook, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- IPBES: Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
<https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>
- FAO: The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
<http://www.fao.org/3/CA3129EN/CA3129EN.pdf>
- FAO (commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture) states of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/assessments/global-assessments/sow/en/>
- European Union Biodiversity Strategy: green infrastructure communication
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm
- French National Strategy for Biodiversity
- German National Strategy on Biological Diversity
- Chinese National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan
- South African National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- BS 8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland. Guide.
- BS 8583:2015 Biodiversity. Guidance for businesses on managing the risks and opportunities
- BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development
- NF X 10-900:2012 Ecological engineering - Methodology of project management applied to the preservation and development of the natural habitats - Wetland and watercourses
- IUCN publications: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2019-007-En.pdf>
- OECD publication on biodiversity
- GRI 4: Biodiversity: <https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/gri-standards-download-center/gri-304-biodiversity-2016/>
- WWF publications: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications>
- Act4Nature <https://www.medef.com/fr/content/entreprises-et-biodiversite-exemples-de-bonnes-pratiques-1>

A statement from the proposer as to how the proposed work may relate to or impact on existing work, especially existing ISO and IEC deliverables. (The proposer should explain how the work differs from apparently similar work, or explain how duplication and conflict will be minimized. If seemingly similar or related work is already in the scope of other committees of the organization or in other organizations, the proposed scope shall distinguish between the proposed work and the other work. The proposer shall indicate whether his or her proposal could be dealt with by widening the scope of an existing committee or by establishing a new committee.)

Some ISO/TCs (see list below) are already developing standards taking into account one or more biodiversity issues.

It should be noted that ISO/TC 207 and the ISO 14000 series were reviewed for potential links and synergies with the future activities of the proposed new TC but no work on biodiversity was identified. With biodiversity becoming a major issue, a dedicated structure ought to be established to address this global urgency in an efficient way. A specific standards package focused on biodiversity is needed. Nonetheless, a liaison with ISO/TC 207 will be proposed to ensure continued cooperation.

The added value of the new TC, compared to existing technical committees including TC 207, is to develop a holistic and global approach for organizations or communities. It will take into account the interactions between the various issues, i.e. protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity, in terms of their contribution to sustainable development. The new TC will contribute to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a coherent and integrated way (for example SDG 13 “Climate action”, SDG 14 “Life below water”, SDG 15 “Life on land”). The following sub-goals are directly relevant in terms of biodiversity:

- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans;
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development;
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species;
- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction and accounts;
- 15.A Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

A listing of relevant countries where the subject of the proposal is important to their national commercial interests.

This standardization endeavour is intended to involve all countries, since preservation, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity are vital global issues.

Region-specific challenges will be considered, for example the “lungs of the world” (the Amazon rain forest, the Mekong and Congo Basins).

The corresponding countries and also countries with the highest biodiversity as well as the ones where biodiversity challenges are particularly acute, will be targeted for P-membership.

A listing of relevant external international organizations or internal parties (other ISO and/or IEC committees) to be engaged as liaisons in the development of the deliverable(s). (In order to avoid conflict with, or duplication of efforts of, other bodies, it is important to indicate all points of possible conflict or overlap. The result of any communication with other interested bodies shall also be included.)

To be engaged as liaisons for the development of the standards of the proposed new TC:

- ISO/TC 8 Ships and marine technology,
- ISO/TC 146 Air quality,
- ISO/TC 147 Water quality,
- ISO/TC 190 Soil quality including SC 4 biological characterization of soil
- ISO/TC 207 Environmental management,
- ISO/TC 268 Sustainable cities and communities,
- ISO/TC 322 Sustainable finance.

To be kept informed as sector-specific primary beneficiaries of the tools to be developed by the proposed new TC:

- ISO/TC 28 Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources,
- ISO/TC 34 Food products,
- ISO/TC 43 Acoustics,
- ISO/TC 47 Chemistry,
- ISO/TC 59 Buildings and civil engineering works,
- ISO/ TC 82 Mining,
- ISO/TC 85 Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection,
- ISO/TC 165 Timber structures,
- ISO/TC 180 Solar energy,
- ISO/TC 182 Geotechnics,
- ISO/TC 193 Natural gas,
- ISO/TC 218 Timber,
- ISO/TC 224 Service activities related to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems,
- ISO/TC 228 Tourism and related services,
- ISO/TC 234 Fisheries and aquacultures,
- ISO/TC 238 Solid biofuels,
- ISO/TC 275 Sludge recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal,
- ISO/TC 282 Water reuse,
- ISO/TC 287 Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products,
- ISO/TC 296 Bamboo,
- ISO/TC 298 Rare earth,
- ISO/TC 301 Energy management and energy savings.

A simple and concise statement identifying and describing relevant affected stakeholder categories (including small and medium sized enterprises) and how they will each benefit from or be impacted by the proposed deliverable(s).

Potential stakeholders are all organizations or groups of organizations:

- National authorities: the new standards will support organizations to meet their commitments, to integrate societal expectations and to enhance current practices in biodiversity data collection and exchange;
- Local authorities: the set of standards will help implementing requirements, framework, guidance and supporting tools adapted to their territories;
- Environmental protection associations: the new standards will ensure that biodiversity issues can be taken into account by all stakeholders in a consistent manner; it will provide them with a tool for dialogue, for the promotion of biodiversity as a specific and irreplaceable value;
- Consumers: the set of standards will contribute to promote products associated to specific actions aiming at preservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Businesses: these new standards will enables businesses:
 - ⇒ To understand and to evaluate the links between their activities and biodiversity;
 - ⇒ To better integrate biodiversity issues into their strategic and decision-making processes, by supporting strategies for action and follow-up;
 - ⇒ To define a communication framework, to report on actions to society and employees;
 - ⇒ To benefit from a methodology integrating biodiversity issues in a way adapted to their nature, size (large businesses, small and medium sized enterprises...), activity and maturity.
 - ⇒ To improve their local and territorial involvement and show their concern

An expression of commitment from the proposer to provide the committee secretariat if the proposal succeeds.

If the proposal is accepted, AFNOR is willing to undertake the work of secretariat of the new TC, and is committed to providing all resources to successfully run the secretariat.

Purpose and justification for the proposal. (The purpose and justification for the creation of a new technical committee shall be made clear and the need for standardization in this field shall be justified. Clause C.4.13.3 of [Annex C](#) of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 contains a menu of suggestions or ideas for possible documentation to support and purpose and justification of proposals. Proposers should consider these suggestions, but they are not limited to them, nor are they required to comply strictly with them. What is most important is that proposers develop and provide purpose and justification information that is most relevant to their proposals and that makes a substantial business case for the market relevance and the need for their proposals. Thorough, well-developed and robust purpose and justification documentation will lead to more informed consideration of proposals and ultimately their possible success in the ISO IEC system.)

According to Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), biodiversity ("Biological diversity") is:

... " the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems".

The stakeholders are more and more aware of and committed to the preservation, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity. Indeed, there are numerous initiatives and upcoming important events like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUNC) congress in June 2020 and the COP 15 in October 2020.

The preservation of biodiversity has become an ethical, economic and global issue. It is now a growing political stake, which is emphasized by an international acknowledgment of the widespread loss of biodiversity and need to accelerate the search of solutions for biodiversity preservation, recovery and sustainable use.

Our economies are strongly dependent on biodiversity, while adversely impacting it. Thus, the links between the economy and ecosystems ought to be explored and taken into account. Preservation, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity also represent an economic opportunity, driving new economic sectors of activity.

Thus, the proposers believe that there is a need to develop standardized and co-constructed tools and methodologies in order to support actions and progress by sharing definitions and good practices.

The proposers are conscious that some biodiversity issues may already be mentioned in a few standards. However, no dedicated international standardization work is being carried out as yet. Existing national standards that are directly related to the SDGs, including planning, development and risk management will be considered. The proposed deliverables will support all stakeholders to develop a clear, global and consistent understanding of biodiversity.

Signature of the proposer

Alain COSTES,
AFNOR Standardisation Director

Further information to assist with understanding the requirements for the items above can be found in the [Directives, Part 1, Annex C](#).