



Business Models and Investments for Nature

Summary, 2nd edition

EU Business and Biodiversity Platform – Workstream Finance

April 2026



About this summary

Members of the [EU Business & Biodiversity Platform](#)'s Finance Workstream present ten existing practices that aim to contribute to nature positive outcomes. These practices were drawn from high-opportunity sectors based on materiality, impact and significance by which an investment contributes to GBF goals and targets ([Nature Framework](#), Verra, 2024). They were also considered based on the [IFC Biodiversity Finance Reference Guide](#) and the [EU Taxonomy](#).

For an in-depth view of each practice, along with key trends and conclusions, please consult the [second edition full report](#).

Who should read this summary?












- *Finance professionals and institutional investors* seeking replicable models and risk-return profiles for investments in nature.
- *Policymakers and regulators* exploring opportunities for public-private collaboration with financial institutions for biodiversity finance.
- *Sustainable finance units* in banks, asset managers, insurers, pension funds, and development finance institutions aiming to integrate biodiversity into portfolios and seeking nature positive impact investing opportunities.
- *Non-finance readers* including NGOs, researchers, and practitioners who seek insights into how financial instruments can support restoration and conservation.







This summary aims to:







- Provide a concise overview covering high-opportunity sectors, existing financial instruments, return profiles, and replicability and/or scalability.
- Serve as a showcase tool and communication resource to strengthen the business case for investing in nature, highlighting how financial institutions can generate long-term value while reducing risks and costs.






The *'Business Models and Investments for Nature'* summary and report seek to help close the biodiversity finance gap by providing concrete existing practices of investing in and financing nature positive outcomes delivering benefits for ecosystems, communities, and financial institutions alike. It supports the alignment of financial flows with key policy frameworks to ensure scalability and long-term continuity.

This summary draws on input from finance member contributors, refined by the authors for clarity and consistency, though the content reflects and remains based on contributor knowledge at the time of writing and remains subject to ongoing development.

Practice	Sector	% Private vs public	Financial instrument	Business model and financial return	Replicability and/or scalability
ASR Dutch Farmland Fund *	 (Regenerative) Agriculture and food		Fund	<p>The Fund offers a diversified, mature farmland portfolio valued at €2.4 billion (as of 31 December 2025), with a minimum investment of €50 million per investor and an unlimited timeframe. It is structured as a fund for joint account ('fonds voor gemene rekening') under Dutch law and primarily invests in farmland with user contracts in place. Various contract types can be tailored to the farmer's needs and operation, such as: ground lease (ultra-long lease, CPI-indexed cash flows), long-term lease (infinite lease, regulated lease price revision), and short-term lease (maximum 6-year lease with free pricing system). Annual distributable return target is at least 2% of net asset value, generated by direct portfolio returns from property proceeds and asset sales.</p>	<p>The fund has reached maturity, with sufficient growth potential in the Netherlands. Its business model is also replicable across Europe, particularly in relevant agricultural countries where a ground lease or hybrid ground lease approach can be implemented.</p>
BNP Paribas Asset Management Environmental Solutions Fund *	 Built environment / urban ecosystem  (Green) infrastructure  Water utilities  (Regenerative) agriculture and food  Forestry  Nature conservation		Listed equity	<p>The Fund manages around ~€85 million in listed equities (as of the end of March 2026) and invests in 60 to 80 companies. The recommended holding period is 5 years. Investors earn a profit through capital appreciation which is realised upon exit. With respect to dividends, investors can choose to invest in the fund via the 'Capitalisation' share class (that reinvests any dividends generated in the fund) or 'Distribution' share class (that pay out any dividends to investors on a pre-set frequency). This is a UCITS fund and offers investors daily liquidity. Year to date, through March 2026, the Fund was up about 5.93% (EUR, Gross of fees) and outperforming the MSCI ACWI (EUR) by 8.57%.</p>	<p>While company holdings have varying business models, some easier to replicate than others, the Fund itself can scale effectively by replicating its investment process across a wide range of public companies. Indeed, one advantage of a public fund is that it can look across different industries and countries to diversify investment.</p>
SLM Silva Fund *	 Forestry		Real assets (timberland acquisition)	<p>The €30 million SLM Silva Fund, with backing from the European Investment Bank, institutional investors and family offices, aggregates small, undermanaged forests in Ireland into an institutional-scale portfolio, transitioning from clearfell-replanting to 'Continuous Cover Forestry'</p>	<p>The fund is scalable and replicable, proven by the launch of a new €150 million SLM Silva Fund II, investing in sustainable forestry across Ireland, UK, Spain, Portugal,</p>

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				(CCF). CCF is based on regular thinning or selective felling of trees and the retention of permanent forestry cover. CCF can generate comparable, and potentially better, returns than conventional forestry with stronger, more stable cash yields, and more stable capital values. The strategy is currently outperforming its return target of 7-8%, with an IRR of 10.29% (unrealised, as of December 2025). The returns are generated through aggregation and sale of timber.	and the Baltics. Building on Fund I's success, Fund II replicates the same strategy: investing in existing forestry and afforestation, aggregating properties into institutional portfolios, implementing CCF management, and seeking to monetise environmental impacts related to carbon and biodiversity.
Tornator Forestry Green Bond with Mirova as an investor	 Forestry	 100% Private	Green bonds ¹	The project is a €350 million green bond with a 1.25% coupon rate ² over 6 years. Investors can invest in the bond and receive a fixed return in the form of an annual coupon. Profits from the underlying projects are partially distributed to owners as dividends ³ , with a general policy to pay out 70% of operative net income, while the remainder is retained to support growth and sustainability.	Replicating for forestry often requires significant capital to acquire a large enough forest asset base. In October 2024, Tornator issued a new €300 million 7-year Green Bond maturing in 2031 with a 3.750% coupon, attracting over 100 investors and demand of over €1 billion.
Triodos Bank Wyre River Natural Flood Management Project*	 (Green) infrastructure  Water utilities  Nature Conservation	 50-75% Private	Blended finance with a Sustainability Linked Loan	Aside from a grant, the project is funded by a 9-year £850,000 commercial loan with a 6% interest rate, with funds drawn over three years and repayments due from years 4 to 9. Interest rates can be reduced by 1% if certain biodiversity targets are met. The loan is split into two facilities: £650,000 from five impact investment funds in the 'Institutional Loan Facility', with the largest contribution from Esmée Fairbairn Social Investment Fund which supported the project in its pilot. The second is £200,000 from four high-net-worth individuals in the 'Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR) Loan Facility,' introduced by Triodos Bank UK. This facility ranks junior to the first and functions as equity with a 6% return and benefits from a 30% tax refund through SITR.	The model is replicable, despite each river catchment being unique. The Ribble Rivers Trust, for example, received a £100,000 grant from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund to develop an ecosystem services investment plan for the River Ribble catchment. The plan includes soil nutrient management, building leaky dams, woodland creation and hedgerow restoration, with quantified benefits such as flood management and improved water quality.

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Biodiversity Monitor – Stacking finance flows including Rabobank Impact Loan	 (Regenerative) Agriculture and food	 50-75% Private	Stacking finance flows ⁴ to farmers, with Sustainability Linked Loan as part of these flows ⁵	Borrowers benefit from multiple financial return streams, such as interest rate discounts on loans, offering ‘sustainability frontrunner’ clients a 20-basis point (bp) discount when they achieve category A status with the Biodiversity Monitor (e.g., a farmer with €2 million in loans would benefit annually by €4,000). The European Investment Bank provides additional capital to Rabobank to support the lower interest. Other incentivising actors as part of the stacking of flows are the dairy production company with a higher milk price and the province with a subsidy. The payback period varies by investment type; for farmland, it’s 20-25 years, while the transition loan has a 3-year grace period.	Can be adapted for similar projects in other regions or sectors and organisations can implement similar monitoring approaches if standardised metrics and data collection methods are established. Engaging more stakeholders can broaden the range of finance flows, such as tax profits.
Astanor	 (Regenerative) Agriculture and food	 50-75% Private	Equity ⁶	Astanor manages €800 million of assets and invests in early to late-stage companies to strengthen human and planet health leveraging the agrifood sector. Ticket size ⁷ range from €10 to 50 million with a minimum investment period of 10 years. Investors receive a return from their investment at the end of the lifetime of the fund.	The private equity model supports the development of innovations and can be scaled by receiving additional funding to increase the size and number of investments it can make in innovative solutions.
La Société Forestière Natural Capital Management	 Forestry	 25-50% Private	Natural assets: carbon credits ⁸ , nature credits ⁹ forestry commodity, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) ¹⁰	La Société Forestière has organised its activities into two entities: La Forestière , managing the forestry plantation, and Seeds Invest , managing the forestry assets. Seeds Invest provides private and public investors with long-term capital appreciation and periodic income from forest commodities sales (timber and non-timber), along with high-integrity carbon credits, (forthcoming) nature credits, and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), with returns tied to forest asset values and market prices. Ticket sizes vary depending on the forest size, and interest rates or percentage returns depend on the type of owners. For voluntary carbon credit sales, profit distribution to investors occurs once reforestation is confirmed by an audit, at which point Seeds Invest finalizes the sale of voluntary carbon credits to the owner.	Replicable and scalable by any forest assets management given its standardised framework for assessing and managing natural capital (ISO 9001 certified sustainable management manual, FSC eco-certification), making it adaptable for other regions and types of forest assets. It provides diverse income opportunities (e.g., carbon credits, sale of forest commodities).

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EBRD Chisinau River Bic Rehabilitation Loan	 Built environment / urban ecosystem  (Green) Infrastructure		Blended finance ¹¹ (loan with senior debt ¹² and grant ¹³)	<p>The project is a €20 million loan with a tenor¹⁴ of over 10 years to the City of Chisinau. Repayment of the project finance loan is not tied to the project itself but to the overall city budget, the borrowing city will benefit from the increased resilience to its tax revenues and economic growth in the city. The city may also reduce budget allocation to municipal companies responsible for storm and flood remediation. This will improve the risk profile of the borrowing city and the overall risk-return expectation for the bank.</p>	<p>The project provides a pilot example of green-blue infrastructure, offering a model for similar successful future project finance loans with municipal beneficiaries. The structure can be enhanced to scale the role of private finance involving commercial banks as co-financers in a parallel loan structure.</p>
Caisse des Dépôts Renaturation of the Branche de Croix canal Loan	 Built environment / urban ecosystem		Sustainability Linked Loan	<p>The loan, as part of the green recovery plan, finances half of the project to the local authority to de-risk and provide guarantees. Although the €8 million loan (out of a total €21.1 million before tax) for a timeframe of 25-years is entirely public, it can serve as a form of guarantee for private investors. The return on investment will be driven by the strong commercial potential of the developments achieved, thus could be replicated with private investors involved.</p>	<p>Replicable with private investors involved, where public actors assist in de-risking of similar projects.</p>

* These are new practices that have been added to the overview since the first edition of this report.

Endnotes

- ¹ Green bond: A fixed income financial instrument designed to raise private investment for projects that provide environmental benefits.
- ² Coupon rate: The annual interest rate paid on the bond's face value (also called par value).
- ³ Dividend: A payment made by a corporation to its shareholders, as a distribution of profits.
- ⁴ Stacking flows: Layering multiple sources of financial benefits to facilitate targeted private actors in achieving a sustainable transition. The financial benefits can be linked to a sustainability standard.
- ⁵ Sustainability Linked Loans: Loans where the terms and conditions are tied to the borrower's sustainability performance, aiming to incentivise and reward improvements in sustainability.
- ⁶ Equity: A security or stock representing ownership in an asset or company, offset by debts or other liabilities. On a company's balance sheet, equity includes funds contributed by owners and retained earnings, or losses.
- ⁷ Ticket size: The monetary amount involved in a financial transaction or investment
- ⁸ Carbon credits: A tradeable instrument that enables the purchase of verified and measurable emission reductions from certified climate projects, allowing companies or individuals to offset their carbon or GHG emissions.
- ⁹ Nature credits: An emerging financial instrument that represents a unit of biodiversity that is being restored or conserved. Similar to carbon credits, they can be traded or purchased.
- ¹⁰ Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): A market-based instrument that offers financial incentives to stakeholders in exchange for managing or delivering an ecological service, where the direct beneficiaries of the ecosystem service pay for its maintenance or provision.
- ¹¹ Blended finance: Combining public or private funds, including concessional tools, to attract more investment (public and/or private) to emerging and frontier markets.
- ¹² Senior debt: A loan or financial obligation that a borrower must repay first over other debts in the event of bankruptcy or liquidation.
- ¹³ Grant: Funds disbursed, like a subsidy, often by a government or a donor organisation, that are not expected to be paid back.
- ¹⁴ Tenor: The duration until a financial contract (e.g., loan, bond, or derivative) matures or expires, indicating the length of time the agreement remains in effect.



European Business & Biodiversity Platform

Biodiversity is the backbone of our economy and the key to a sustainable future for businesses. However, many businesses remain unaware of their dependence on and impact on biodiversity. From natural resources and services to climate regulation and economic stability, biodiversity is essential for all life on Earth. Through the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform, businesses can learn about the importance of biodiversity and develop strategies to move towards a nature-positive future, benefiting both their operations and the planet.

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Lead authors

Martha Bailon (NextGreen), Workstream Finance, EU B&B Platform

Anne-Marie Bor (NextGreen), Lead, Workstream Finance, EU B&B Platform

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