

Nature Credits

Background

The European Commission launched its Roadmap towards Nature Credits on 7th July 2025. The Roadmap aims to incentivise private investments into actions that protect and preserve nature, and reward those who undertake these actions and invest in them.

CIFF views

The Chemical Industry Federation of Finland in general terms believes that it is good that integration of nature and biodiversity action into business is promoted. Nature and biodiversity are not only a lifeline in themselves, but also crucial foundations for a competitive and resilient economy. The Chemical Industry Federation of Finland strives to become a nature-positive and carbon neutral industry by 2045. Promoting biodiversity is part of the chemical industry's voluntary Responsible Care sustainability program, with different types of action being planned and implemented in member companies.

The Finnish chemical industry is part of global material flows, and a key part of long value chains. The chemical industry is a broad sector, and the operations, processes, value chains and products of our member companies are diverse. Biodiversity measures are taken at different stages of the value chains, and although the value chains are global, biodiversity measures and solutions are very much company- and location- specific.

Given the current absence of a robust and widely accepted framework for the measurement, reporting, and verification of nature credits that is mutually recognized across Member States, the development of the Nature Credits Roadmap is a welcome initiative. The EU is well-positioned to develop the necessary methodologies and to govern and implement a comprehensive framework for nature credits.

It is important that the objectives and the intended effect of the Nature Credits Roadmap are clearly outlined, and that the concept supports companies' concrete work for the benefit of biodiversity. The added value and effectiveness of any possible measures should be prioritized, while considering the global, diverse value chains and the different environmental situations of the EU Member States. Instead of a cumbersome reporting framework, we hope for a system that enables, promotes and supports companies' biodiversity work in a comprehensive and efficient way. The connection to other policy areas and EU strategies, for example on climate, circular economy, raw materials, water, and the use of natural resources, is important to cross-check for potential overlaps or contradictions. Global developments in the field need to be closely monitored and considered; a consistent, clear and predictable policy must be strived for, so that EU level work does not conflict with global frameworks and so that the competitiveness and sustainability work of companies is supported. The interconnections between and applicability of already existing instruments for nature action therefore need to be clarified: care should be taken to ensure alignment also with international standards from the very beginning. Beyond ensuring coherence with existing policies, there is a need for an overarching view of how various EU policies, frameworks, initiatives and programs are interconnected and aimed at achieving nature-positive outcomes. Clearly positioning this Roadmap within this broader picture is essential for providing clear messaging and guidance to all stakeholders.

Any model and related definitions must be clear and science-based. In this regard, CIFF particularly emphasizes science-based verification of indicators and additionality of possible actions to ensure transparency and reliability. The mitigation hierarchy needs to be further

underlined and strengthened, and the risk of greenwashing needs closer analysis and mitigation. Education and skills also play an increasingly essential role in developing effective biodiversity work.

To facilitate robust discussions and the development of nature credits within the EU, lessons learned and methodologies from current initiatives or pilot projects on carbon farming activities could be shared. This is especially relevant for projects demonstrating co-benefits for biodiversity, ecosystems (particularly those linked to nature-based solutions), and social aspects, as soon as such information becomes available.

Timeline

The work on developing Nature Credits will continue during the Commission 2024-2029 mandate, with key actions outlined for 2025-2027. Actions include: setting up an expert group, launching a pilot project, identifying main options (including criteria and methodologies) and key challenges associated to nature credits, an EU-wide evaluation of supply and demand for nature credits, designing a government framework, and engagement in international fora. The Commission will in 2026 adopt the first carbon farming methodologies under the EU Regulation on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) with mandatory co-benefits on biodiversity. Based on experience and consultations, and inputs from the expert group, the Commission will in 2027 review progress made and consider next steps for the development and scaling up of nature credit markets.

Further information

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