



A Nature Positive Future for the Ocean

Dr. Rachel Golden Kroner

*Director, Nature Positive for Oceans
World Wildlife Fund (WWF), United States*

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Thank you so much for the invitation to this important event



Interlinked Global Crises: Biodiversity Loss, Climate Change, and Inequality

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We are facing interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality.

The 2019 global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) highlighted the depth and breadth of the biodiversity crisis, and called for nothing short of transformative change - fundamental changes to social, economic, and political systems - that we need to ensure a thriving future for all life on Earth including people.

And we know that people are a part of nature, so a **nature** positive future also means that **people** will be able to thrive.

We also know that a **just transition** to renewable energy can help to address **inequality** and **climate change**.

The offshore wind industry, governments, and financial institutions **all have a role to play** to incentivize and steer us in a way that contributes to nature and addressing all three interlinked crises together.



BIODIVERSITY

“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.”

Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)



NATURE

“The natural world, with an emphasis on the diversity of living organisms (including people) and their interactions among themselves and with their environment.”

IPBES Conceptual Framework (2015)

Before getting into the concept of nature positive, I want to define the difference between biodiversity and nature

We sometimes use these concepts interchangeably, but there are some differences.

Biodiversity is the diversity of life, including genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. [idb-2021-biodiversity-nature.pdf \(cbd.int\)](#)

Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) Article 2

Nature is the sum total of all living and non-living things. It includes life or biodiversity AND abiotic factors like wind, precipitation, and temperature, as well as people. It is a more holistic concept.

Adapted from Díaz, S et al. (2015) The IPBES Conceptual Framework – Connecting Nature and People

What is Nature Positive?

- Global societal goal
- All of society contributions
- Apex goal for nature, similar to net zero for climate



So what is nature positive?

I'll use a metaphor to start, borrowed from Dame Dr. EJ Milner Gulland

Nature positive the "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" - a world in which humans live in harmony with the rest of nature.

Nature positive is a global societal goal to which all actors must contribute in order to achieve it, and everyone has a role to play.

Where did this term come from?

Nature positive is a relatively new term. It started as a way for the conservation community to define an apex goal for biodiversity, similar to the 1.5degree target under the Paris agreement. What is something that we can all rally around, alongside goals for net zero for climate? And ensure that nature is a part of all decision making

Global Goal for Nature: Nature Positive by 2030

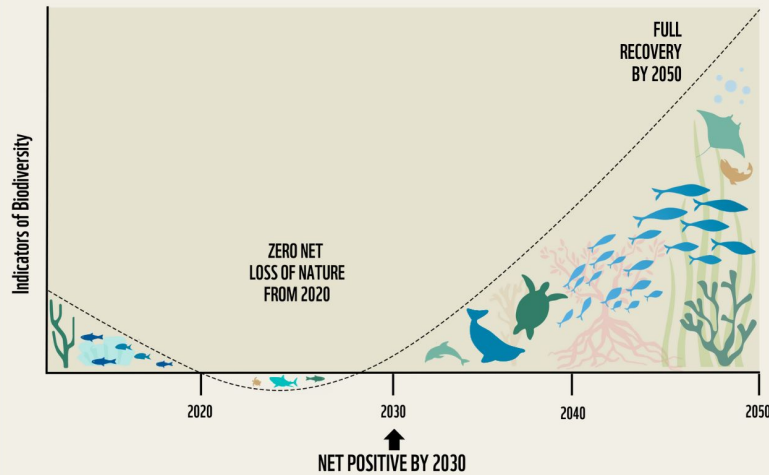


Figure adapted from NaturePositive.org

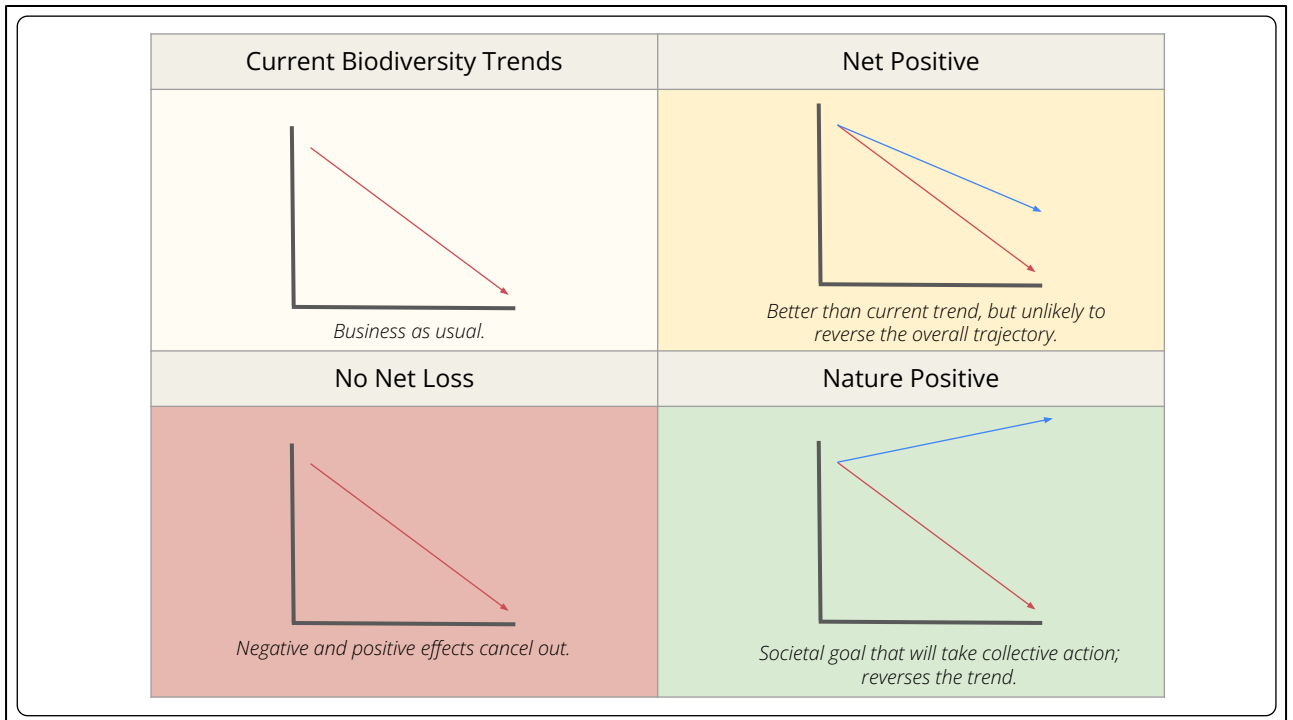
Nature positive is a global goal to halt and reverse nature loss measured from a baseline of 2020, through increasing the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, and ecosystems so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery. By 2050, nature must recover so that thriving ecosystems and nature-based solutions can continue to support future generations.

Because this is a new term, there have been many different definitions used, some of which focus on a process, or concept.

The Nature Positive Initiative, the global authority and origin coalition for this concept, has defined nature positive in this way.

“Nature positive is a global goal to halt and reverse nature loss measured from a baseline of 2020, through increasing the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, and ecosystems so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery. By 2050, nature must recover so that thriving ecosystems and nature-based solutions can continue to support future generations.”

Note that this is a TARGET-BASED definition, with a baseline and timeline.



You may have heard these terms before, and wondered - what is the difference between no net loss, net positive, and nature positive?

First, it's important to mention that the current global trendline for biodiversity is trending downward, or negative.

No Net Loss is maintaining this downward trend. There may be positive actions going on, but the positive and negative actions cancel each other out.

As I mentioned, nature positive is the global societal, collective goal to which all actors are contributing. No individual entity can "be" nature positive.

Net positive is about measurement and attribution. In this case we are talking about net positive for biodiversity, but you could be "net positive" for climate, people, etc. This idea is all about understanding and measuring the negative and positive impacts, and comparing them. Does the positive outweigh the negative? Then it is net positive. Net positive contributions may be able to add up to nature positive future, but this requires actors across society to be working toward this goal and making significant contributions.

It is very important to note that it is very difficult to assess this for biodiversity! We do not have one metric we can use to measure biodiversity in the same way that we have for carbon and climate change. This question is something that scientists are working on, including considerations about scale and comparability.

Nature Positive: **Opportunities**



Opportunities associated with the concept

- In general - Intended to be a disruptive concept (current trend vs transformation)
- It is not intended to suggest replacing conservation actions which emphasize avoiding and mitigating harm to nature - not at all!
- The idea is to go beyond this, toward avoiding harm AND enhancing nature
- This concept has garnered a lot of attention and is gaining traction.
- In policy, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed in 2022 includes its 2030 goal to “halting and reversing biodiversity loss”
- There is increasing recognition by the private sector of their impacts and dependencies on nature, About HALF of global GDP depends on nature.
- Many emerging frameworks
- SBTN
- TNFD

For offshore wind - opportunities include the inclusion of nature in non-price criteria

Nature Positive: **Challenges**

The Guardian

What does 'nature positive' mean - and can it rally support to stop biodiversity loss?

The buzz phrase aims to emulate the success of 'net zero' in climate campaigning. Yet some fear it is too vague, and open to greenwashing

nature ecology & evolution

Don't dilute the term Nature Positive

Nature Positive is an aspirational term that is increasingly being used by businesses, governments and NGOs, but there is a danger that its meaning is being diluted away from measurable overall net gain in biodiversity towards merely any action that benefits nature, argues E.J. Milner-Gulland.

Some challenges that the global community is grappling with

- Many different definitions have been used - there is confusion
- "Don't dilute the term nature positive" - ensuring there is no greenwashing
- How to measure net positive as contributions to a nature positive future? This is important for credibility, but there is not one metric for biodiversity and scale matters (time and space)
- Ensuring we define and can reach full recovery for nature
- Ensuring nature and people are served by this concept and that the movement is inclusive

For offshore wind: challenges

- Paucity of publicly available data in the oceans to measure and verify net positive

AR³T Framework

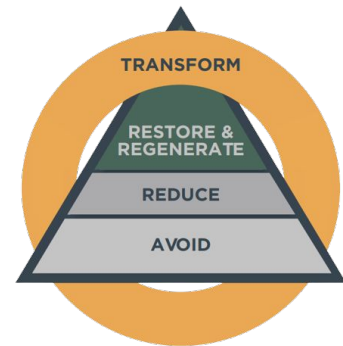
Avoid: Prevent/eliminate new impact from happening.

Reduce: Minimize, if not eliminate, existing impacts.

Restore: Initiate/accelerate the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability.

Regenerate: Take actions designed within existing ocean, coastal, and aquatic systems to increase the biophysical function and/or ecological productivity of an ecosystem, with a focus on nature's contributions to people.

Transform: Take actions contributing to system-wide change, notably to alter the drivers of nature loss.

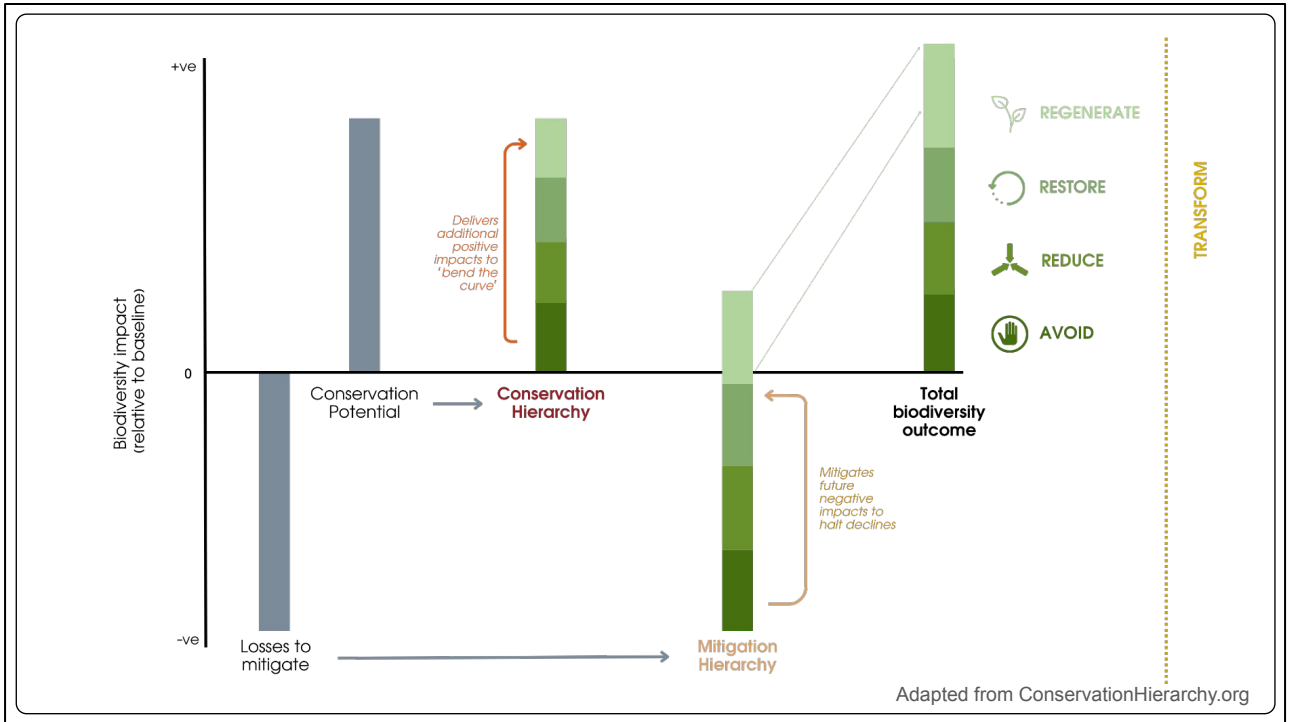


Source: Science Based Targets Network

The AR3T Action Framework is built on the mitigation hierarchy set out in the [International Financial Corporation's \(IFC\) Performance Standard 6](#). As currently used, IFC PS6 helps companies plan for and address their impacts on biodiversity at a project level. The AR3T Framework is also built on the conservation hierarchy, which expanded the mitigation hierarchy concept to include proactive, positive steps for nature.

Some examples in the offshore wind space

- Avoid siting in areas critical for bird and mammal migration, and protected areas and OECMs
- Mitigation - reduce noise impacts through use of technology like bubble curtains
- Restore habitats, like providing enhanced nesting areas for seabirds in the appropriate locations
- Regenerate - engage local communities in restorative actions, inclusive processes
- Transform - throughout the process. Engagements /advocacy to change systems



Walk through it

Ongoing Work on Nature Positive Oceans



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Nature Positive Initiative

- Global coalition of 27 organizations; upholding the integrity of the concept and use of the term nature positive

SBTN Oceans Hub

- Developing science-based targets for companies whose operations affect the oceans to be able to provide credible contributions to a nature positive future. Starting with seafood value chain now, and in future will expand into other sectors.

Nature Positive Framework for Oceans

- Defining targets guidance and recommendations for including for the offshore wind sector including getting started to contribute to a nature positive world and how to measure net positive contributions

Working in partnership with many organizations

Call to Action: Transformations for a Nature Positive Future



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My takeaway message is: We need transformative change for a nature positive future, and all actors have a role to play

Companies: make credible commitments; invest in monitoring, measurement, and evaluation; advocate for policy/transforming the sector for a nature positive future

- Industries highly dependent on nature, for whom nature loss is a serious material threat, will benefit most from collective action on system-wide transformation.

Governments and financial institutions: Crowd in and incentivize nature- people- and climate- positive actions

Governments - support science; ensure inclusive processes of community engagement

NGOs - engage along the spectrum of actors involved in this space; convene; advocate; bridge the science and policy

WWF's role is to engage with all of these actors in different ways around the world toward transformation to a nature positive future

Scientists - engage to help us define net positive measurement of biodiversity and nature for the oceans

To all: Collaborate and co-design.

coordination through industry and sectoral initiatives are needed to prevent leakage - shifts in impact shifting that occurs when a sector does not move together on sustainability issues.

The future of life on Earth depends on it

An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from the surface, creating a bright, shimmering effect. The coral is diverse, with many tall, thin, yellowish-green stalks and some darker, branching structures. The overall scene is healthy and thriving.

**WHY WE NEED A
NATURE POSITIVE
FUTURE FOR THE
OCEAN**

THANK YOU!



If you'd like an easy-to-read explanation of nature positive, why it matters for the ocean, and what different actors can do about it, I've recently published a blog that you can find [here](#)

Thank you!

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Backpocket on BCG report

WWF have a report coming out tomorrow that recontextualizes a lot of the now swirling narratives about the impacts of renewable energy development being worse somehow than climate change