



ISO/TC 331 "Biodiversity"
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BIODIVERSITY

Proposal for the creation of a new ISO technical committee

ISO webinar
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Outlines

1. What is biodiversity?
2. Why developing a holistic and global approach on biodiversity?
3. focus on the proposal for a new ISO technical committee
4. Questions and discussions



1-What is biodiversity?

According to Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 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”.



2-Why developing a holistic and global approach on biodiversity?

Background:

- Growing awareness for preservation, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- An ethical, economic and global issue.
- Economic dependence on biodiversity while impacting it
- Opportunity for new economic sectors of activity.



2- Treaties, initiatives and publications

Treaties and initiatives:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP)
- IPBES: Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- FAO: The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Regional and national strategies :

- European Union Biodiversity Strategy
- France, Germany, China, South Africa, ...

Publications: IUCN, OECD, GRI, WWF

Upcoming events:

- the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) congress in June 2020
- COP 15 in October 2020.



2-Why developing a holistic and global approach on biodiversity?

- need to develop standardized and co-constructed tools and methodologies in order
- to support actions and progress by sharing definitions and good practices.
- No dedicated standardization work is being carried out as yet.
- to develop a clear, global and consistent understanding of biodiversity.



3-Focus on the proposal for a new ISO TC on biodiversity

3.1 Scope:

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.



3-2 Work programme

- a. Definition and terminology
- b. Principles and framework
- c. Territory approach
- d. Case studies of specific ecosystems
- e. Guidelines on specific biodiversity issues
- f. Biodiversity data collection and exchanges



3-3 Existing standards

Existing standards on biodiversity:

- 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



3-4 Ongoing work

In UK:

BS 8683-1 Biodiversity net gain. Part 1: Project design and pre-construction – Specification

BS 8683-2 Biodiversity net gain. Part 2: Biodiversity net gain in project implementation and project operation (on-site and off-site)

BS 42021 Biodiversity and the built environment: Specification for the Design and installation of Bird Boxes

In France:

X31-001 :Biodiversity - Ways to address biodiversity issues in organizations - Requirements and Guidelines

X32-101 : Biodiversity and Ecological Engineering - Ecosystem Project Management Methodology

X32-102 : Biodiversity and ecological engineering - Approach to conducting an initial state of biodiversity in the context of a development project



3-5 Collaboration

Liaisons:

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



3-5 Collaboration

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 on solid biofuels,
ISO/TC 275 on sludge recovery, recycling, treatment and disposal
ISO/TC 282 on water reuse
ISO/TC 287 Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products,
ISO/TC 296 on bamboo
ISO/TC 298 Rare earth,
ISO/TC 301 Energy management and energy savings.

3-6 Stakeholders

All organisations and groups of organisations:

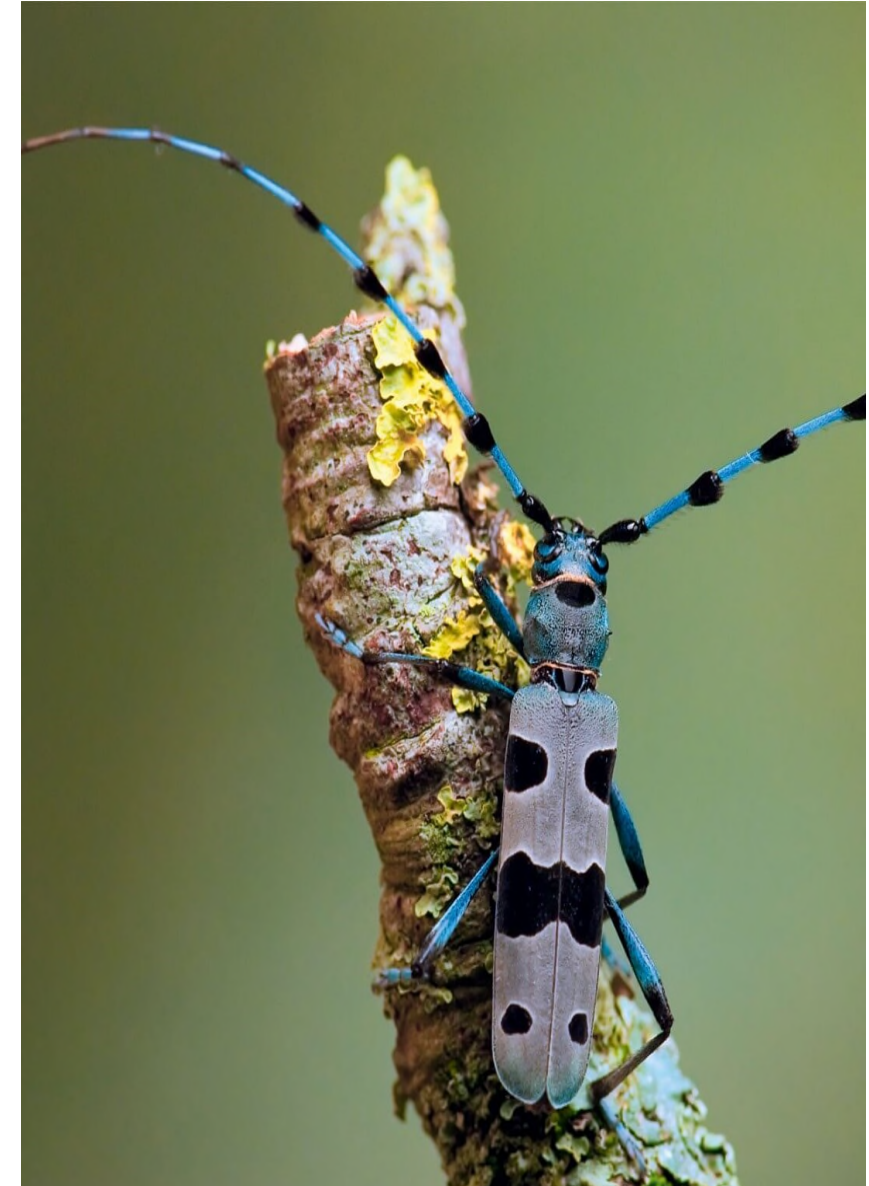
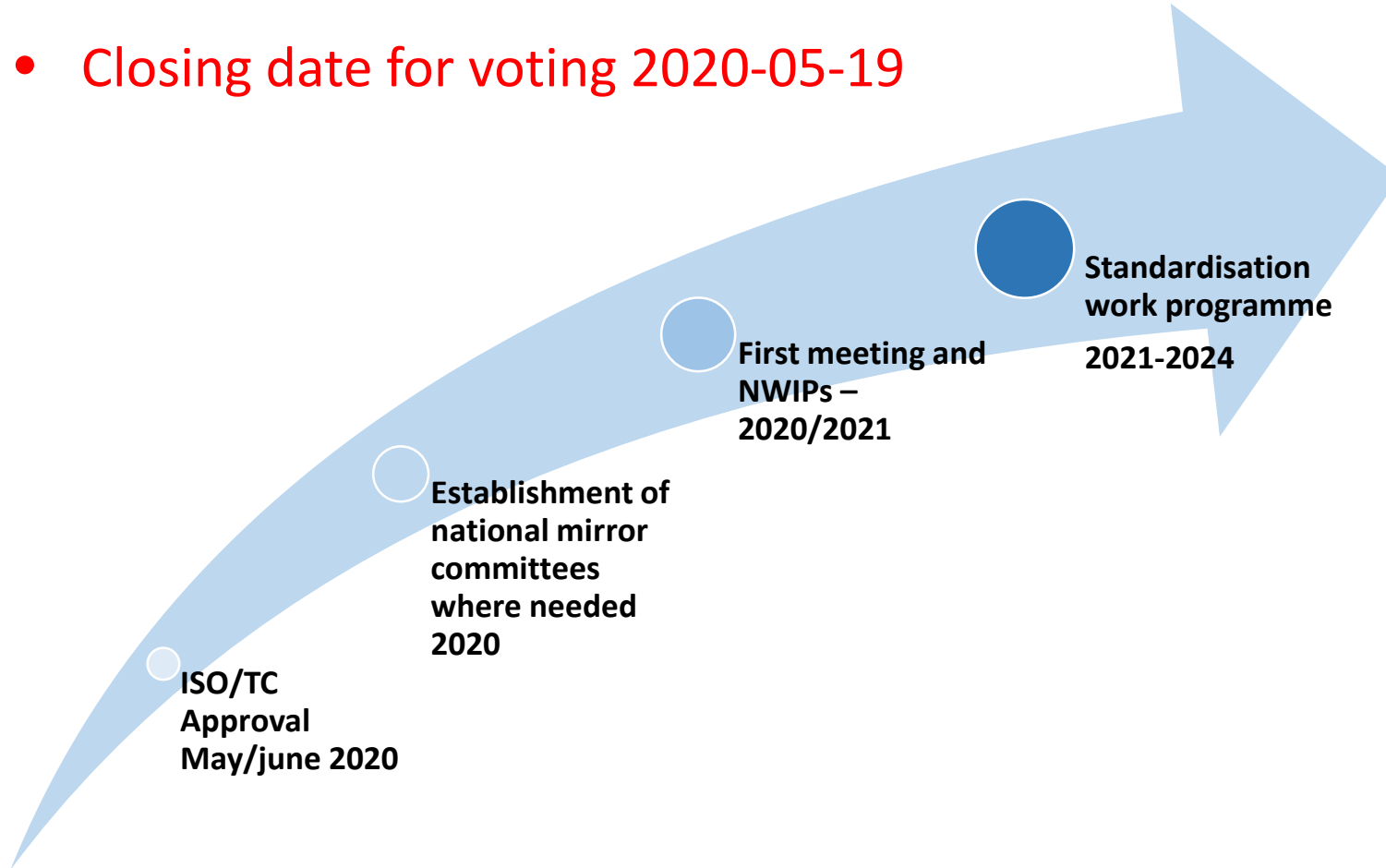
Scientific
Research

- National authorities
- Local authorities
- Environmental protection associations
- Consumers
- Businesses



3-7 Proposed planning

- **ISO/TS/P 285**
- Circulation date 2020-02-25
- **Closing date for voting 2020-05-19**



3-8 Standardization on biodiversity

- To develop a **holistic and global approach** of protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity for organizations or communities.
- To take into account the interactions between the various issues of biodiversity: **protection, recovery and sustainable use**, in terms of their contribution to sustainable development
- To contribute to **UN SDGs**: SDG 13 “Climate action”, SDG 14 “Life below water”, SDG 15”Life on land”.



Objectives - Contribution to UN SDGs

implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a coherent and integrated way : 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:

- Ecosystems:

- 15.9 Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction and accounts;

- 14.2 marine and coastal;

- 15.4 mountain

- **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.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.



4-Questions and discussion ?



4-Questions received

- Who has initiated this proposal - is it from the ministry/government side, from industry, environmental NGOs or a combination?
- Is there already one or more methodologies that could be a suitable base for the work or is the initiative more from an envisioned need? - What are these methodologies if they exist ?
- ISO/TC 266 “Biomimetics” as liaison to be added



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Main questions collected during the enquiry for the creation of a new ISO/TC on “Biodiversity” - ISO/TSP 285

General

1- Who has initiated this proposal?

The proposal of the creation of this new ISO/TC on biodiversity is indeed a combination of the needs expressed by all stakeholders.

A bit of history:

In France, 8 years ago (in 2012), a first standard on ecological engineering was published with the creation of a first standardization community on the topic of biodiversity.

In 2018, a seminar was organized by Afnor with all possible stakeholders to analyze the standardization needs on this topic.

Following this seminar, a French committee on biodiversity was created in 2019 and this committee proposed the creation of a new ISO technical committee in 2020

See also the different stakeholders identified in the ISO/TSP and the participants in the French committee presented in answer to Question 2 below

2- Who are the stakeholders and users?

The main stakeholders and users of these future standards on biodiversity are:

- 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;
For example, in France, we have the support of the **Ministry of Environment** and the **Ministry of Agriculture**. Furthermore, we have the support of the **French Office of Biodiversity (OFB)**.
- Local authorities: the set of standards will help implementing requirements, framework, guidance and supporting tools adapted to their territories; Indeed, the **French Office of Biodiversity has missions and offices at local and regional levels. In the French committee, some French “county” are involved as well as the Federation of regional natural parks.**
- Environmental protection associations: it will provide them with a tool for dialogue, for the promotion of biodiversity as a specific and irreplaceable value; For example, **“France Nature Environnement” is member of the French committee.**
- Consumers: the set of standards will contribute to promote products associated to specific actions aiming at preservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity; **We have in France a dedicated committee for consumers ‘matters and they also participate in French committee**
- 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 improve their local and territorial involvement and show their concern

All businesses sectors should be targeted. At this stage, in France, the sectors of energy, cosmetics, construction, environment services, ecological engineering, and land developers are involved. We are in contact with the agriculture and agro-food sector, as well as some service sectors

To finish with, scientific research exists among all stakeholders and should provide valuable contributions. For example, the Natural History Museum and the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB) are members of the French committee.

If we take, as an example, the future standard « Principles and framework», all these stakeholders will contribute to the elaboration of this future standard and will use it.

Interfaces with other organizations

3- Please clarify the relationship between the future standard(s) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty that was signed in 1992. As an international treaty, we are in the political field that says what has to be done.

Standardization is on the technical field and ISO standards are complementary by giving tools and methodologies on how to do it. Thus the future standards, if the new ISO committee is created are intended to provide a technical support for the CBD. As you can read in our proposal, the new ISO/TC will consider the protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity, in terms of their contribution to the UN sustainable development goals and in line with the CBD goals. Such an initiative at ISO level can't be disconnected from an existing international treaty like CBD.

Furthermore, the French ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Agriculture contributing to CBD for France are very active members of our national committee and are supporting this initiative.

4- Suggested liaisons with the following structures:

- ✓ ISO/TC 266 "Biomimetics"
- ✓ CAC Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ✓ IUCN

All liaisons will be considered once the new TC is created. Proposals can be easily added in the voting comments.

The proposed liaisons with ISO/TC 266 "Biomimetics", CAC Codex Alimentarius Commission and IUCN seems fully relevant. CAC and IUCN have already liaisons with ISO technical committees.

The list of proposed liaison is given in the ISO/TS/P 285

5- Why create a new ISO/TC on Biodiversity, versus developing standards on biodiversity within ISO/TC 207 "Environmental management"?

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. Our stakeholders are conscious that some biodiversity issues may already be mentioned in a few standards. However, no dedicated standardization work is being carried out as yet. The proposed deliverables will support all stakeholders to develop a clear, global and consistent understanding of biodiversity.

With biodiversity becoming a major issue and a goal in itself, 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 most adapted answer to this is to create a dedicated ISO/TC.

Work programme

6- The area of biodiversity is very broad, could precise how standards will be used?

Our purpose is really to develop tools and methodologies to help organisations to protect, recover and have a sustainable use of biodiversity. Our proposed work programme is described in the ISO/TS/P.

If we take, as an example, the future standard « Principles and framework », it 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 future standard will provide useful tools for:

- Inventory of the situation (background of the organization, identification and prioritization of biodiversity issues);
- Definition of an action plan (strategy formalization, elaboration of an action plan);
- Monitoring of the approach, etc....

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.

The purpose of this new ISO/TC is also to gather the work and experiences existing all over the world to promote them in ISO standardization.

Our stakeholders are very interested in what exists in other countries and we would very much appreciate your feedback and how would be your approach of international standardization to promote biodiversity.

Liaisons and cooperation will be established to avoid any overlaps and duplication of work. For example, CBD has a glossary of terms on biodiversity, standards on terminology will not compete with CBD. In ISO, the terminological work refer to the standards developed and takes into account existing relevant work.

7- Is there already one or more methodologies that could be a suitable base for the work or is the initiative more from an envisioned need?

There are existing methodologies (see relevant documents in the ISO/TS/P) but some are still to be developed. A link with in the field REX and R&D will be sought in the future TC.

Some existing tools and methodologies could be promoted through international standardization to be available worldwide.

Very few standards with methodologies were identified and the need was expressed to fill some gaps, especially to help organizations to take into account biodiversity issues.

See existing work and ongoing work in the presentation: Besides existing and ongoing work from BSI and AFNOR, some standards were identified during the enquiry from Sweden, Norway and Ecuador.

We hope the countries developing national standards and methodologies will contribute to this standardization if the future ISO/TC is created.

8- Would this future ISO/T cover ecosystemic services?

If Ecosystemic services are tackled from a generic point of view, then, the future ISO/TC on Biodiversity could welcome generic standards on this topic.

If Ecosystemic services are tackled from a sectorial point of view (for example: soils, water, etc...) and if the sectorial ISO/TCs are interested to develop standards on this topic, we will let them do.

9- About standardization of biodiversity products

- Is the standardization of biodiversity products an objective of the new TC?
- Will the work start with the standardization of biodiversity products?
- If this is the case, would there be a risk of overlap with existing ISO/TCs work programmes?

The first objective of the new TC is to work on tools for organizations to preserve, restore and have a sustainable use of biodiversity.

On a more general aspect, If biodiversity issues related to specific products are tackled within product TCs (for example : agro-food, wood,...) and if the sectorial ISO/TCs already develop standards and/or are interested in developing standards on this topic, these TCs are the appropriate place to develop these standard.

If biodiversity issues related to products are tackled from a generic point of view, then, the future ISO/TC on Biodiversity could welcome generic standards on this topic.

As described in the scope, the purpose of the TC is to develop requirements, principles, framework, guidance and supporting tools in a holistic and global approach. This work may motivate and boost further complementary developments in existing TCs.

10- About certification

- How to use the standard(s), such as guideline?
- Since you have mentioned that the proposer has no intention to use the standard for certification at this moment, how this/these standard(s) will be used?

In fact, this question of certification will have to be discussed within the new ISO/TC if it is created and for each work items that will be proposed. The TC will be able to produce standards that will promote and contribute to the protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity. The choice to allow certification or not will depend on the stakeholders, market needs and the maturity of the subject and can't be forecast at this stage.

Please note that the work programme proposed at this stage is focused on organisations and projects for the protection, recovery and sustainable use of biodiversity and not on products.

11- Other topics identified to be discussed if the ISO/TC is created:

- The relations between :
 - Biodiversity and economy, market and financial processes
 - Biodiversity, resources efficiency and circular economy
 - Biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity and specific sectors or stakeholders: industry, agro-food industry, landowners, SMEs...

These topics will be brought to the attention of the new TC if it is created.