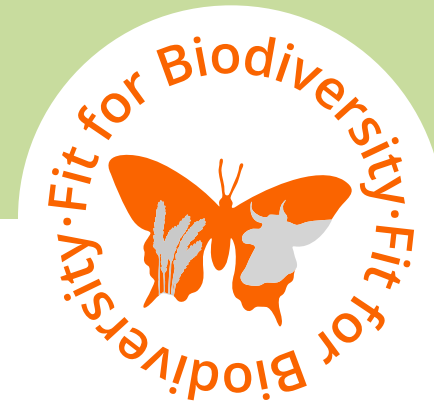




Fit for Biodiversity – Solutions for the Agri-Food Sector

Biodiversity Credits for Ecosystems – Insights from the Fit for Biodiversity Project

Shermila Weragoda
Meo Carbon Solutions

7th October 2026

Biodiversity Governance and Performance in the
Food Sector



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EU LIFE Project "Fit for Biodiversity"

Biodiversity Governance and Performance in the Food Sector



Association Food
for Biodiversity



Global
Nature Fund

**Co-funded by
the European Union**



Objective:

Strengthen biodiversity management, monitoring, financing, and performance across food-sector supply chains.



Meo Carbon
Solutions



Lake Constance
Foundation



Justus-Liebig-University
Giessen



<https://food-biodiversity.de/en/fit-for-biodiversity/>

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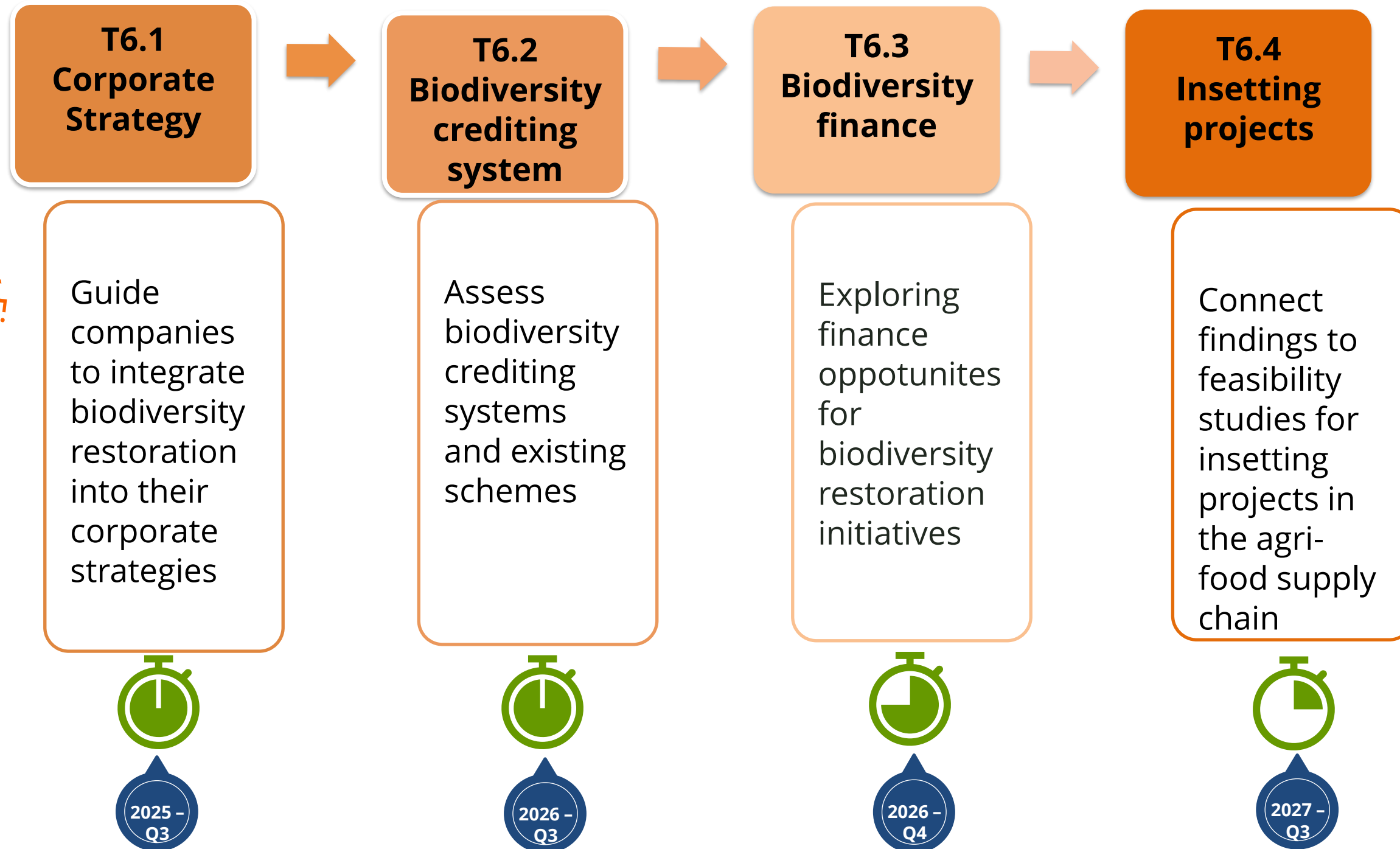
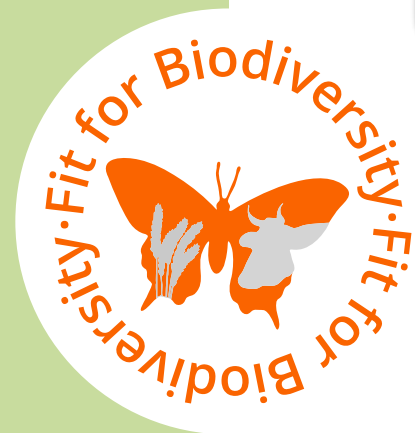
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WP6: Financing Restoration of Ecosystems via Biodiversity Credits in the Food Sector



CREDITS FOR NATURE. VALUE FOR BUSINESS.

Combining environmentally friendly and socially responsible activities with financing and development.

meo
CARBON SOLUTIONS

BIODIVERSITY BOOSTS BUSINESS

01 Risk Mitigation

- Supply chain security
- Anticipatory compliance
- Nature-related risks are entering **due diligence** and credit assessments

02 Financial Gain

- Increased interest from investors and lenders
- Access to **sustainable finance**
- Proactive adaptation for long-term **cost stability**

03 Competitive Edge

- Early movers shape standards
- Enhance **brand value** and market differentiation
- Nature-positive innovation **unlocks new markets**

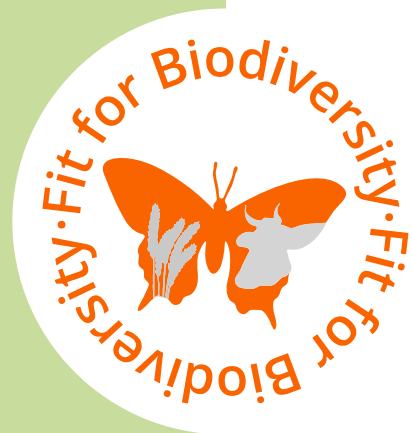
NATURE IS A STRATEGIC ASSET

Over **50% of GDP** depends on nature. Ecosystem degradation threatens supply chains, agricultural productivity, raw materials, water security, and climate resilience. For example, **more than 75% of global food crops depend on pollinators**. To address these issues, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) calls for scaling biodiversity-positive incentives and aligning financial flows with nature goals.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

- Map **nature dependencies** and impacts across operations and supply chains
- Set measurable **nature-related targets**
- Embed biodiversity into **risk management**
- Align **capital allocation** with ecosystem resilience

European food companies have already implemented actions, including pollinator habitat on farmland, restoration of threatened ecosystems, regenerative agriculture, carbon farming and agroforestry.



Biodiversity Credits Dossier: key findings



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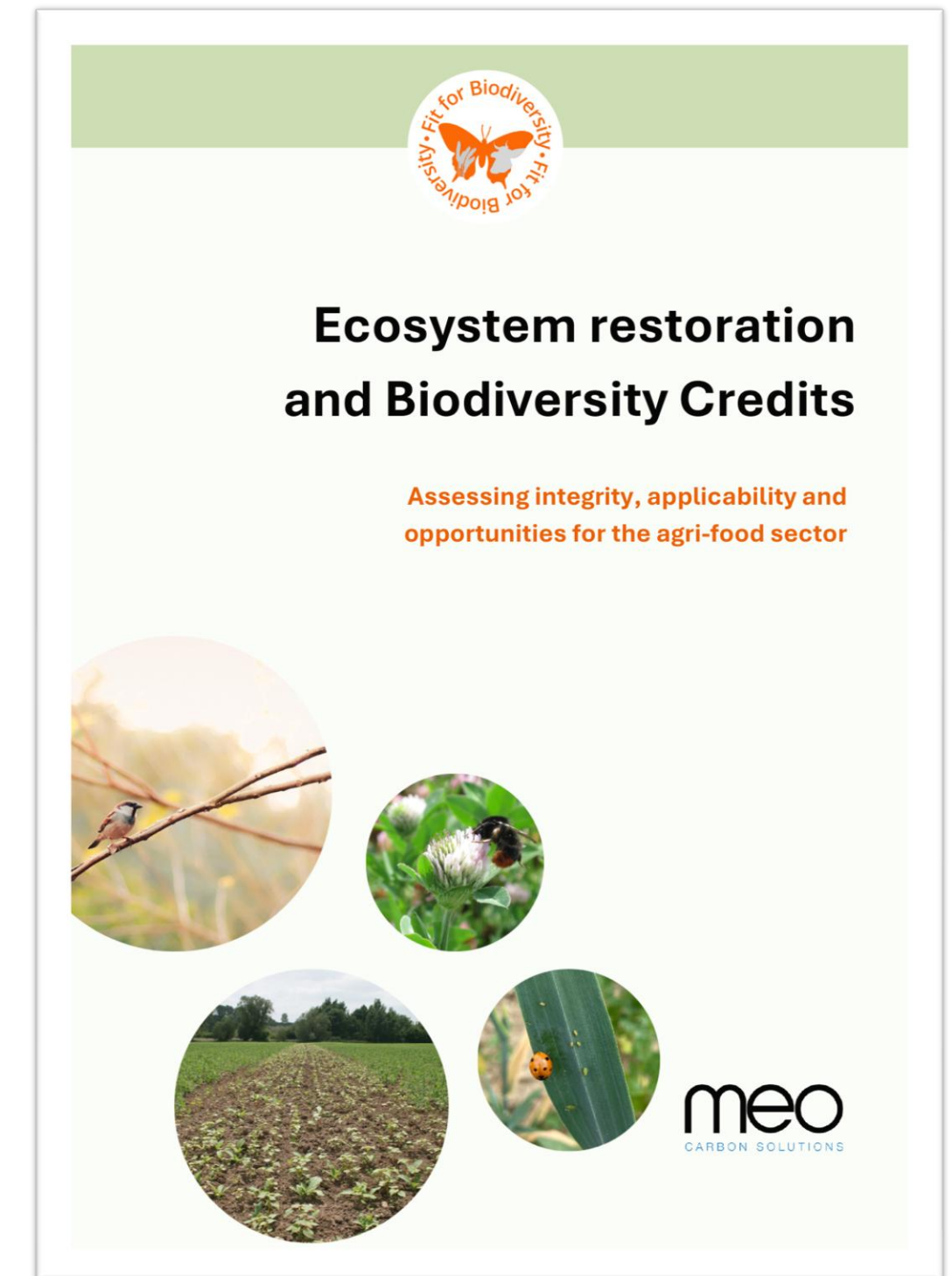


What does the Biodiversity Dossier cover?

- Market structure and biodiversity crediting mechanisms
- Global biodiversity crediting landscape
- Integrity assessment of biodiversity crediting schemes
- Applicability to agricultural landscapes and agri-food sector
- Analysis of the relevant policy frameworks
- Challenges of biodiversity crediting
- Recommendations for credible use in the agri-food sector

The work was based on:

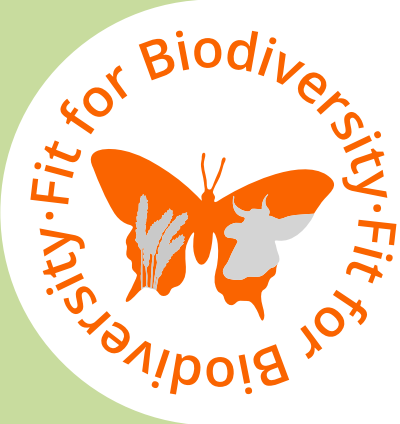
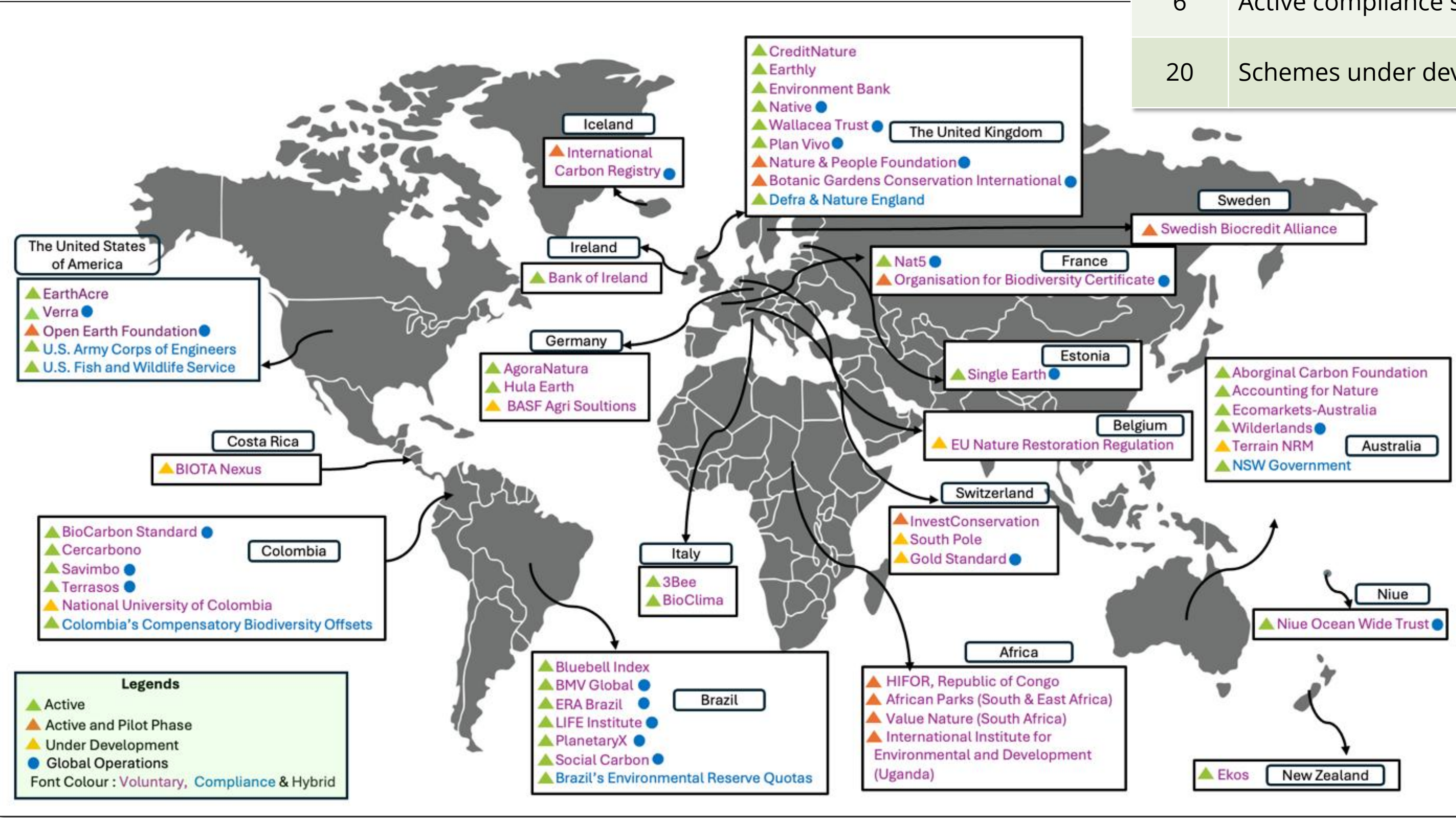
Desk research, scheme database development, policy analysis, stakeholder interviews and comparative assessment.



Link to the Dossier: [Ecosystem restoration and Biodiversity Credits](#)

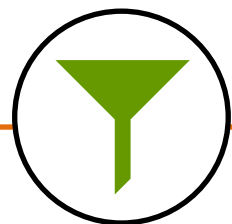
Market Landscape

56	schemes assessed in detail
30	Active voluntary schemes
6	Active compliance schemes
20	Schemes under development



Assessment Methodology

Integrity criteria and applicability to the agri-food sector



(1) Pre-screening

- Database of existing biodiversity crediting schemes (56)
- Excluded: Compliance schemes, early-stage schemes, insufficient public information
- 31 voluntary schemes shortlisted



(2) Integrity assessment

- 9 criteria + 42 sub-criteria

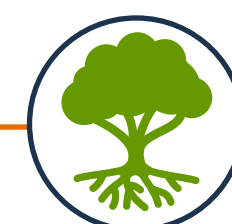
Baseline	Additionality	Quantification
MRV	Safeguards	Permanence
Leakage	Governance and tracking	Issuance timing (ex-ante/Ex-post)

- Weighting system for Mandatory and Recommended sub-criteria
- Performance score*: 1 = Weak, 2 = Partial, 3 = Strong



(3) Overall integrity categories

Score Range	Category
0-50	Weak
51-70	Moderate
71-85	Good
86-100	Strong



(4) Agri-food applicability

- 1) Ability to capture biodiversity outcomes in agricultural landscapes
 - 2) Affordability for farmers and project developers
 - 3) Potential to support credible demand from agri-food companies
- Performance score*: 0=not applicable, 1 = Weak, 2= Partial, 3 = Strong

* Scoring is based on the BCA High-Level Principles (HLPs) Assessment Matrix v1.0

Results : Integrity Assessment

Table 1: Integrity benchmark scores of biodiversity crediting schemes classified as strong or excellent/

Name	Base	Add.	Quant.	MRV	Perm.	Leak.	Safeg.	Gov./Track.	Issuances	Overall
1 Verra	100	86	100	100	73	100	94	94	100	94
2 PV Nature	85	86	90	100	76	100	97	100	100	93
3 Cercarbono	85	86	90	92	76	100	97	94	100	91
4 Savimbo	78	86	90	100	76	83	94	83	100	88
5 NaturePlus	70	67	100	96	67	83	92	94	100	85
6 Terrasos	70	86	100	100	76	50	86	78	100	83
7 Ekos	85	86	81	92	61	50	97	89	100	82
8 BioCarbon Sta.	85	67	81	88	55	67	97	89	100	81
9 Wallacea Trust	78	76	81	92	76	100	58	56	100	80
10 Social Carbon	70	86	76	88	58	33	94	89	100	77
11 Swedish Biocredit All.	63	57	90	83	76	100	64	61	100	77
12 AgoraNatura	78	86	90	96	33	33	83	83	100	76
13 3Bee	78	67	81	92	64	33	64	78	100	73
14 Nat5	63	67	81	88	73	33	56	83	100	71
15 HIFOR	63	38	81	92	58	33	92	83	100	71



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Applicability to the Agri-food sector: results

Table 2: Results of the agri-food applicability assessment of selected biodiversity crediting schemes

		(i) Agri-food applicability		(ii) Affordability	(iii) Potential to support credible demand			
Scheme		Agri. outcomes	Indicator flex.	Cost feas.	Frameworks align.	Bundle/stack	Credibility	Overall
①	3Bee	3	3	2	3	0	2	13
②	AgoraNatura	3	3	2	2	0	2	12
3	Verra ★	2	3	1	2	1	3	12
4	BioCarbon Standard	2	3	2	2	0	2	11
5	Wallacea Trust	1	3	1	2	2	2	11
6	Social Carbon	2	2	1	2	1	2	10
7	PV Nature Credits ★	2	1	2	2	1	3	10
8	Nat5	3	1	1	2	0	2	9
9	Swedish Biocredit Alliance	2	2	1	1	0	1	7



High-integrity benchmarks

- **Large** restoration / conservation projects
- **Higher certification and MRV cost**
- More feasible with aggregation / **landscape-level** interventions



Strong agri-food applicability

- **More practical** for agricultural landscape
- Focus on pollinators, vegetation, grasslands, orchards, field edges
- **Need stronger safeguards** (e.g. permanence, leakage, long-term governance)

Key Outcomes and Recommendations



1

Biodiversity credits can unlock additional finance

Credits can complement public funding and reward measurable outcomes beyond legal obligations and publicly funded baselines.

2

Practical guidance to strengthen the market

Translate existing integrity frameworks, such as the High-Level Principles, into practical guidance with minimum quality requirements for biodiversity crediting schemes.

3

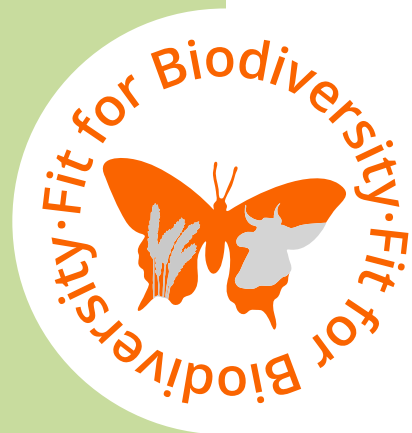
Demand requires credible claims

Transparent registries, clear attribution rules and clear guidance for contribution, inseting and offset claims are essential to build buyer confidence.

4

Strongest pathway: supply-chain insetting

Support biodiversity restoration within sourcing regions to improve supply-chain resilience, build supplier trust and deliver measurable biodiversity outcomes.



Upcoming Outcomes:

Biodiversity Finance Dossier

Feasibility assessment of insetting projects



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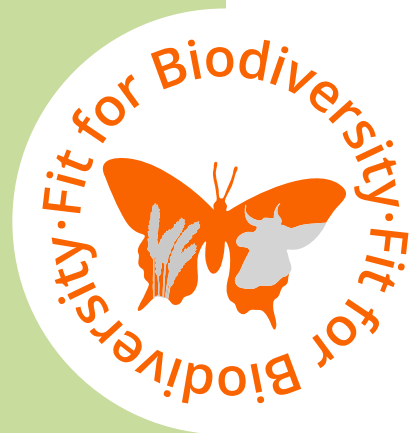
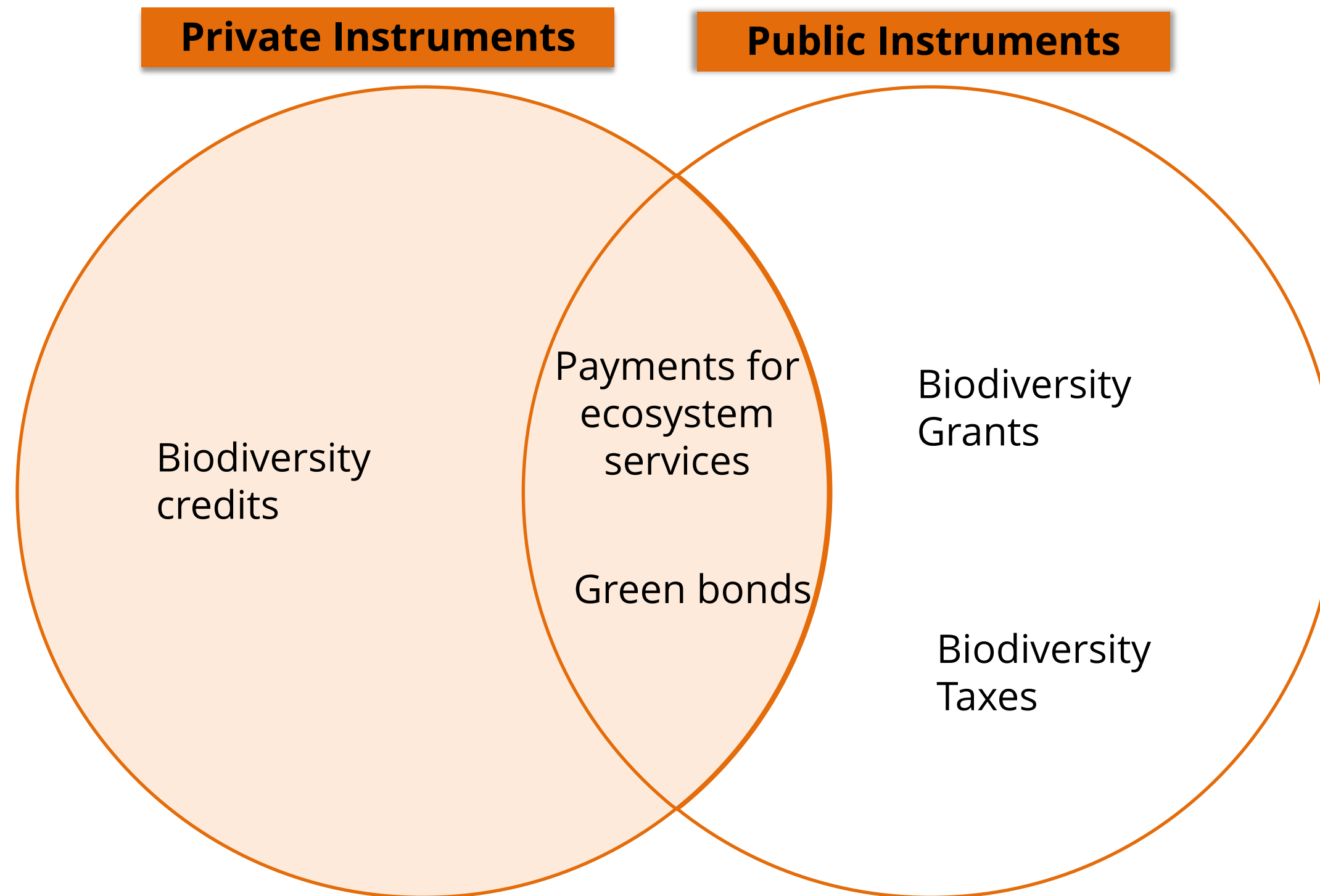
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Biodiversity Finance Instruments



Biodiversity Insetting Feasibility Studies



We are looking for agri-food companies and farms to join an exploratory feasibility study

What we will explore:

Biodiversity and nature restoration opportunities in your value chain or project area

Insetting potential and practical implementation barriers

Possible links to certification, biodiversity credits and blended finance

Assessment can support reporting (e.g. *DIROs)

Financing options for early-stage project development

*Note: Dependencies, Impacts, Risks and Opportunities (DIROs)



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Limited number of
feasibility studies
available —
participation can
help kick-start your
biodiversity project



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