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Introduction to Biodiversity Regulations

Background

Over the years, environmental sustainability has been the big issue for the book publishing industry to come to terms with: The measuring of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions playing a substantial role. Numerous large, and small to medium organisations alike have made huge strides on their respective sustainability journeys. All of this takes time and effort.

With so many organisations continuing, or starting their sustainability journey, biodiversity is receiving greater attention as the next issue to be considered and included as part of "environmental sustainability".

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity can be defined as - the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

The United Nations Foundation has pushed an [article](#) on biodiversity exploring the facts and myths associated with the topic.

What does this mean for the book industry supply chain?

For the book industry supply chain this means organisations need to look at how their activities affect the biodiversity in the regions that they operate. This can be linked, for example, back to the logging of trees to produce paper, as well as the mining of rare earths for the manufacture of electronic devices for reading e-books.

Are there any regulations that cover biodiversity?

Currently, there are frameworks looking at biodiversity and how it can be incorporated into regulations. Such as the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and the recently announced, [ISSB research projects](#) to expand the current Standards to include biodiversity more robustly (with potential new Standards being introduced).

There is also [CDP](#) a global non-profit charity that runs the world's only independent environmental disclosure system. As the founder of environmental reporting, they believe in transparency and the power of data to drive change.

The International Organization for Standardization has recently launched a new [ISO 17298 - Biodiversity in strategy and operations](#) standard. This is to help organisations measure their biodiversity impact in the following ways:

- Accelerate their responses to biodiversity loss with a clear, evidence-based framework,
- Embed biodiversity into their core strategy, operations, and decision-making,
- Move from ambition to action, turning sustainability goals into measurable results,
- Build resilience and unlock new opportunities for innovation and growth,
- Demonstrate leadership and credibility to stakeholders, clients, and regulators.

Conclusion

At the time of writing, there are no specific standards or regulations that the book industry must comply with. There are voluntary schemes for reporting on biodiversity, and when available regulations tend to start with larger organisations and limited companies being required report on.

This is a changing market, and the drive will be to include more information around biodiversity going forwards. BIC will continue to monitor this situation and report on any changes under the auspices of its Regulation Horizon Scanning Group.

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