



## Media Release

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### Biodiversity: a business risk

Sydney: Australian businesses should understand their dependency on natural capital and acknowledge the risks from the ongoing decline in natural capital assets, according to a preliminary paper released today as part of the Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (ABBI).

The paper, [Natural Capital at Risk](#), is a collaboration between Fauna & Flora International, NAB, KPMG, and Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute and is a precursor to a sector based report to be released at the World Parks Congress in Sydney on 13 November 2014.

“Natural capital is essential to both the economic and social quality of life in Australia, and the combination of increasing scarcity and uncertainty with social and community pressures is prompting changes in demand and regulation of our natural capital,” said Andrew Petersen, CEO SBA and ABBI spokesperson.

“Risks to individual businesses are unique and may need to be factored in to risk assessments including lower profitability, cash flow issues, supply risk, fluctuating commodity prices, and damage to brand and reputation.”

“Companies assessing business risk need to account for natural capital in a similar manner as they do their financial capital. This means understanding and assessing the risks involved with respect to their organisation’s dependency on diminishing natural capital and the goods and services it provides,” said Petersen.

The full report to be released at WPC in November will provide sectoral analysis to demonstrate the key risks for Australian business across; Mining, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Electricity, gas, water and waste, Manufacturing, Construction, Financial Services, and Tourism

The direct and indirect natural capital exposures of macro-level industries will be presented in detail to provide the rationale for Australian businesses to better understand the links between their financial and natural capital risks.

### About ABBI

The Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (ABBI) is an alliance of organisations and individuals from business, government, academia and civil society.

ABBI’s mission is twofold : to raise awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem services loss and degradation as a critical risk; and to recognise the opportunity for Australian businesses to support the development of practical solutions that integrate consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into business decision-making and ultimately improve the health and resilience of the environment and the economy.

### About SBA

**SBA** [www.sba.asn.au](http://www.sba.asn.au) was established in Australia in 1991, and is the peak body for advocacy for sustainable business activities in Australia, and appointed Global Partner for WBCSD ( World Business Council for Sustainable Development) in 2014. Its members represent leading Australian businesses across sectors who share a commitment to economic, environmental and social development. SBA represents just member companies, public sector enterprises and institutions, BINGOs and community organisations , which in turn represent 100,000 + Australian employees.