In Focus

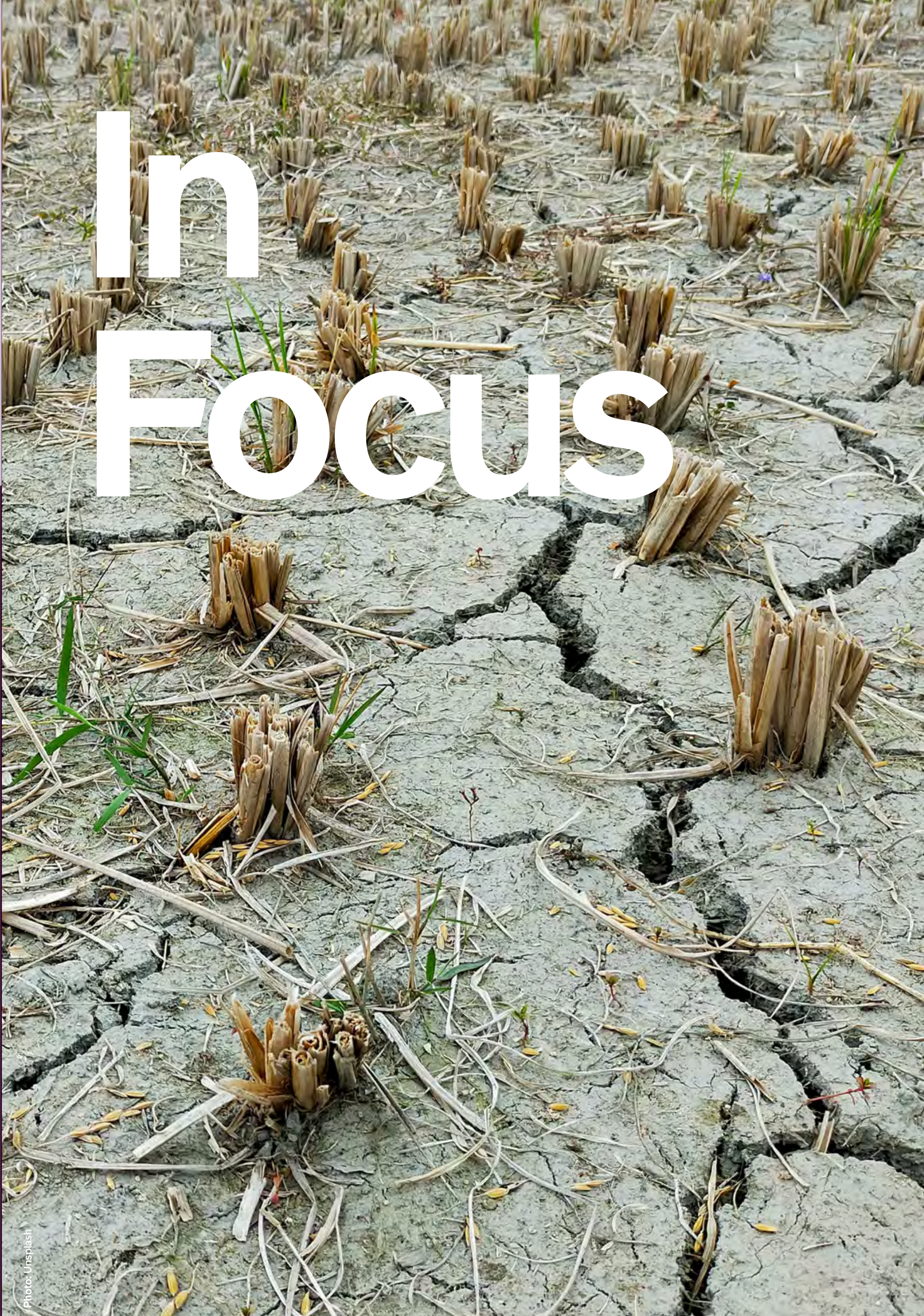


Photo: Unsplash

Nature and Climate Finance

Nature and climate are increasingly recognized as two sides of the same investment challenge. Biodiversity loss, water stress, deforestation and other forms of ecological degradation create financial risks for companies and shareholders, while the necessary transition to a low-carbon economy is reshaping policy, technology and capital flows. For long-term investors, this means moving beyond carbon alone: understanding nature-related dependencies and impacts is becoming essential for resilient portfolios and credible climate strategies.

Storebrand Asset Management is strengthening its approach to nature and climate finance by integrating emerging best practice into investment analysis, risk assessments and stewardship. We are improving how we identify and monitor exposure to climate and nature-related risks across sectors and supply chains, prioritizing engagement where we can make the biggest difference to real-economy outcomes, and promoting policies and frameworks that require businesses to assess and disclose nature-related impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities.

In this focus section, we provide updates on our work within this area, including a new publication on integration of nature data into investment analysis and stewardship. We also describe recent updates from some of the multi-stakeholder initiatives that we take part in, as we believe collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders is essential to address systemic risks arising from climate change and nature loss.

"……(We are) prioritizing engagement where we can make the biggest difference to real-economy outcomes…."

Photo: Unsplash

Analysis shows Nordic Corporate Leaders Must Reverse Negative Trends to Meet 2030 Nature Goals

Report launched in October by Storebrand AM in partnership with nature and biodiversity data leader GIST Impact

A new report released in late October by Storebrand Asset Management, in partnership with nature and biodiversity data leader **GIST Impact**, finds that the 100 largest Nordic companies are leading the way on environmental performance. Together, these companies have a 42% lower impact on nature compared to the Nature Action 100's global benchmark of major corporations.

However, the report, *Integrating Nature Data Into Investment Decisions,* also carries a warning: even these leaders are still increasing their pressure on nature. Since 2017, their negative impacts on nature have grown by around 1% each year, with most of that impact concentrated in a few high-impact industries. This growing pressure on nature exposes investors and Nordic companies to mounting risks and could undermine global nature goals if left unaddressed.

When nature is lost, ecosystems are degraded, supply chains are disrupted, productivity falls, and asset values erode. Nature underpins reliable access to water, energy and raw materials, which are essential for everything from food production to manufacturing. As competition for resources grows, countries and companies that safeguard natural assets will be better prepared for future shocks and disruptions.

"The good news is that the largest Nordic companies are ahead of the curve. The urgent news is that even leaders are still moving in the wrong direction, increasing their environmental pressures year on year," commented **Emine Isciel,** Head of Climate and Environment at Storebrand Asset Management, at the launch of the report. Isciel also noted: "As investors, we can use this data to move beyond broad policies and pinpoint exactly where value is at risk, and where we need to drive meaningful change at a company-level. Nature-related risks, whether from ecosystem degradation, water stress, or litigation, have direct implications for companies, affecting valuations, operational stability, and long-term resilience. Understanding how portfolios interact with nature helps us pinpoint financial risks and drive meaningful change through targeted engagement."

Driving Accountability through Data

Historically, integrating nature-related considerations into investment and lending decisions has been challenging, largely due to limited data, tools and guidance. This analysis shows the main challenge is no longer data availability, and with appropriate interpretation and application, the data can reveal valuable insights.

By mapping company operations against location-specific data, including water stress, forest loss, biodiversity intactness, protected areas, and Indigenous lands, Storebrand and GIST Impact were able to identify high-risk sectors and locations that translate directly into financial and operational exposure.

"Nature data is inherently complex. It can't be reduced to a single metric. The real power lies in integrating trusted, traceable datasets to produce location-specific insights. This enables investors to identify where the biggest nature risks and opportunities for impact truly lie," said Mahima Sukhdev, Chief Growth Officer at GIST Impact.

Methodology

The Nordics 100 represents a portfolio of the top 100 companies headquartered across Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, selected based on market capitalization and exposure to TNFD high-priority sectors.

These companies were benchmarked against the Nature Action 100 (NA100), a globally recognized, investor-led initiative comprising 100 of the largest, most nature-relevant companies worldwide. The comparison allowed for a like-for-like assessment of environmental performance, dependencies and risks.

Storebrand Asset Management partnered with GIST Impact on this analysis to demonstrate how nature-related portfolio assessments can inform investment strategies, sharpen stewardship approaches and support alignment with global biodiversity goals.

"…..The good news is that the largest Nordic companies are ahead of the curve. The urgent news is that even leaders are still moving in the wrong direction, increasing their environmental pressures year on year….."

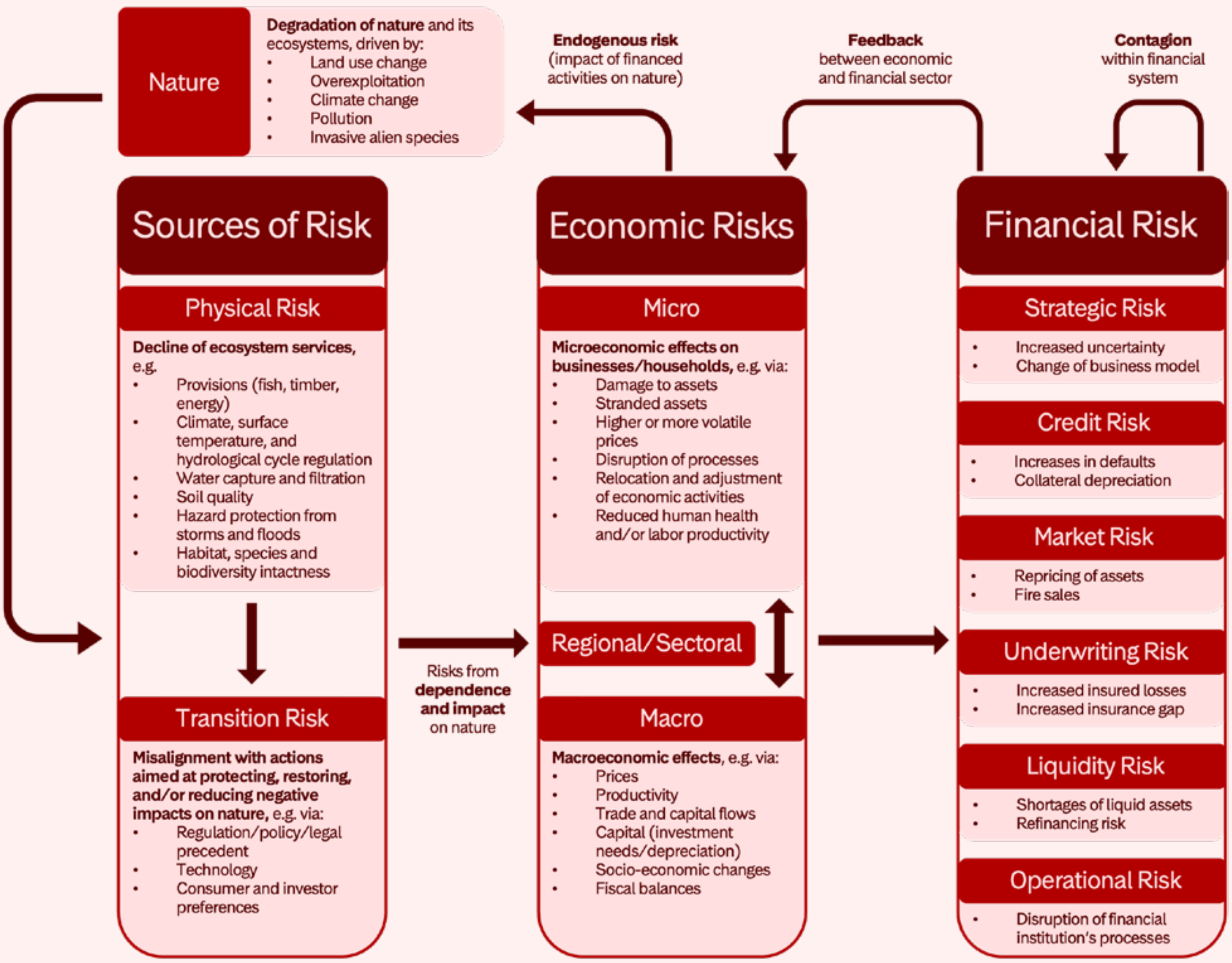
Key Findings: Sector Hotspots and Rising Nature Risks
The analysis shows that most of the biodiversity footprint in the Nordics 100 portfolio is concentrated in a handful of high-impact sectors, particularly manufacturing, food production, automotive, textiles, and freight transport. These industries also rely heavily on water for operations, making them vulnerable to water stress and growing regulatory pressures.

Additional insights on the Nordics 100 portfolio include:

- Manufacturing alone accounts for over 70% of the portfolio's biodiversity footprint, despite representing just over half of its value.
- More than half of the portfolio's manufacturing assets are located in drought-prone or water-stressed areas, creating significant exposure to operational and financial risks.
- Nearly one in five manufacturing investments are located near protected areas, as defined by the World Database on Protected Areas.
- High-impact business activities, such as railway construction, petroleum manufacturing, freight air transport and water transportation services are also exposed to strictly protected areas and Indigenous lands.

The location-specific data illustrates how these risks manifest in practice:

- **Water stress:** This exposure is particularly pronounced in the manufacturing sector, where more than half of sites in the Nordics 100 portfolio are already in drought-affected regions, leaving production in these regions more vulnerable to disruption and rising costs if water becomes even scarcer.
- **Forest loss:** Several forestry-linked operations are located close to areas where forests are actively being cleared, putting these companies at the centre of growing scrutiny over deforestation and land use.



↑ The analysis builds on a model of the risks associated with nature loss, and their significant macroeconomic and financial implications

- **Indigenous lands:** Freight air and water transport activities in the portfolio overlap with nearly 200 Indigenous communities. This proximity to Indigenous lands increases the likelihood of community concerns and scrutiny and underscores the need for companies to act responsibly in sensitive areas.

Nordic Leadership Within the Global Context

The world remains off track to meet the 2030 global nature goals. **Under the UN Global Biodiversity Framework**, all financial flows are expected to align with nature-positive outcomes by the end of the decade. Yet an estimated USD 7 trillion per year, around 7% of global GDP, continues to finance activities that degrade ecosystems.

Given their relative leadership on nature impact, Nordic companies are well placed to set the tone globally, using this new analysis to strengthen risk management, investor stewardship, and corporate accountability.

How we integrate nature data into stewardship

Storebrand Asset Management will use these findings to focus its stewardship where it matters most:

- Identifying the most significant nature-related impacts across its portfolios

- Targeted engagement with companies in high-risk sectors and locations such as manufacturing, forestry and transportation, and those operating in or near Indigenous lands, to reduce environmental pressures and build resilience.

- Monitoring company targets and performance over time on, for example, water management and biodiversity impacts, and alignment with evolving reporting standards.

- Driving transparency and accountability in line with frameworks such as **TNFD** and **GRI**.

"This analysis enables more informed engagement with companies on their strategies, especially in high-risk areas. For instance, encouraging water reuse and efficient wastewater management in manufacturing hubs, or supporting Indigenous-led conservation efforts in ecologically sensitive zones. We'll use these insights to pinpoint nature-related risks, engage where it matters most, and support stronger biodiversity reporting and accountability across our portfolio," concluded Isciel.

Read the full report, *Integrating nature into Investment Decisions*

Dependencies on Ecosystem Services

	Air Filtration	Biological Control	Education Scientific And Research Services	Flood Control	Genetic Material	Global Climate Regulation	Other Provisioning Services Animal Based Energy	Other Regulating And Maintenance Service Dilution By Atmosphere And Ecosystems	Rainfall Pattern Regulation	Recreation Related Services	Soil And Sediment Retention	Solid Waste Remediation	Spiritual Artistic And Symbolic Services	Storm Mitigation	Visual Amenity Services	Water Flow Regulation	Water Purification	Water Supply
Construction	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	L	M	VL	L	VL	VL	L	VL	VL	L	VL
Energy Supply	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	L	VL	VL	VL	VL	L	L	L
Manufacturing	VH	VL	VL	VL	VH	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VH	VL	L	VL	VL	L	L
Mining	VL	VL	VL	L	VL	L	VL	M	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL
Professional Services	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL
Transport & Storage	VL	VH	VH	VL	VL	VL	M	VL	L	VH	VL	VL	VH	L	H	VL	L	VL
Wholesale & Retail	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	M	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	L	L	VL	VL	VL

Dependency Category: VL Very Low · L Low · M Medium · H High · VH Very High

↑ The analysis helps to reveal certain sectors that require targeted attention to address risks

Events

Danish summit on integrating nature data

Storebrand hosted well-attended event in Copenhagen on utilising nature data for transition planning and decision making

In December, Storebrand AM, **GIST Impact**, and **Finans Danmark** hosted the event "Nature in Investment Decisions: Turning Commitments into Action," centred on a newly published report highlighting rising nature-related risks and the need for targeted investor action.

At the event in Copenhagen, 25 professionals from across the Danish asset-management industry gathered to discuss how nature data can be integrated into transition planning and day-to-day decision-making.

Historically, the task of integrating nature considerations into investment and lending decisions has been difficult, due to limitation in the data, tools, and guidance available. However, new analysis shows that data availability is no longer the main barrier — what investors need now is the ability to interpret and apply existing information effectively.

"The problem is not lack of data but rather making sense of existing information. Through the 100 Nordics report, we have demonstrated that with appropriate interpretation and application, existing data can reveal valuable insights for investors", noted **Emine Isciel,** Head of Climate and Environment, Storebrand AM at the event.

↑ Presenters at the event in Copenhagen.

Read the full report, *Integrating nature into Investment Decisions* and join the conversation about the event on Linkedin.

European Business and Nature Summit

Storebrand AM CEO Jan Erik Saugestad shared insights at panel on advancing Finance for Biodiversity

In November, marking the five-year milestone of the Five Years of the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge, the latest edition of the **European Business and Nature Summit** (EBNS 2025) was held in Helsinki, Finland. EBNS, the flagship event for leaders committed to building a sustainable, resilient, and nature-positive economy, gathers hundreds of decision-makers from across Europe to share solutions, shape policy, and take action on biodiversity and climate challenges.

At the event, Storebrand AM CEO **Jan Erik Saugestad** joined the panel "From Pledge to Action: Advancing Finance for Biodiversity" alongside Anita de Horde of the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, Michele Lacroix of SCOR, Gautier Quéru of Mirova, and Jaanni Pietikäinen, the Head of EIB Group Office in Finland.

The panel explored how the finance sector can move from commitments to measurable impact, focusing on reducing harmful financial flows, increasing investment in ecosystem restoration, and aligning financial activities with global biodiversity goals. It also highlighted the policies and partnerships needed to scale action and drive systemic change.

Among the insights shared by Saugestad, were the fact that nature underpins the future in which every investment is betting on and that nature, in the form of forests, soils, oceans and so on, are more than just environmental concerns - they are economic infrastructure. Saugestad also noted that with nature data now already capable of generating actionable insights, we have a strong foundation to generate actionable insights regarding footprints and dependencies; and to identify relevant companies and industries. An example he pointed out was Storebrand AM's new report on ***Integrating Nature Data Into Investment Decisions.*** Going forward, he emphasized that the financial sector must now swiftly shift faster into action mode, collectively ensuring that financial commitments translate into measurable outcomes.

Join the conversation about this panel and the event, on LinkedIn.

↑ Participants at the event.

↑ Storebrand AM CEO Jan Erik Saugestad at the event.

↑ Jan Erik Saugestad (centre) at the summit with Mher Margaryan, Ambassador, Special envoy for CBD COP17 Armenian Presidency, Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Anita de Horde, Executive Director of FfB, and Sonya Likhtman, Director, Stewardship, Federated Hermes Limited, Co-chair of the FfB Public Policy Advocacy working group (left-to-right).

Photo: Finance for Biodiversity

↑ Storebrand's Michel Ommeganck collects the award at the ceremony in Amsterdam.

Storebrand AM wins Collaborative Leadership for Nature award

Recognition at Finance for Biodiversity Member Progress Awards 2025

Storebrand AM won the "Collaborative Leadership for Nature" award at the Finance for Biodiversity (FfB) Summit, held in Amsterdam during December.

The FfB Member Progress Awards recognise and celebrate best practice among the finance community to accelerate action on nature loss and drive positive impact. The awards ceremony on 4 December rounded off the inaugural FfB summit — From Pledge to Progress – which brought together financial institutions, policymakers and sustainability leaders to tackle challenges, identify solutions and celebrate progress in biodiversity finance.

Storebrand AM received the award for demonstrating collaborative action for nature through its sustained, open and system-level approach to advancing biodiversity integration into finance, actively chairing the FfB Foundation's Public Policy Advocacy working group, supporting global policy engagement efforts — including before and during the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 and COP16 — and its role as a founding partner of Nature Action 100 and active involvement in numerous collaborative initiatives related to biodiversity, including the UN PRI Collaboration Platform SPRING. Transparent reporting and a knowledge-sharing culture have also seen Storebrand AM recognised among the most mature institutions on Commitment 1 of the FfB Pledge (Collaboration & Knowledge Sharing), scoring highly in its Foundation's Internal Members Progress Report (IMPR).

Jan Erik Saugestad, CEO of Storebrand AM, commented: "We are delighted to have won this award which recognises our long-term commitment to nature and Storebrand's role in leading the finance community to tackle and reverse biodiversity loss. Finance for Biodiversity is an invaluable platform that unites like-minded investors and demonstrates the important progress we can achieve through collaboration."

Emine Isciel, Head of Climate and Environment at Storebrand AM, added: "This award recognises more than Storebrand, it highlights a set of values and a community of people who believed in this work long before it reached a stage that could be celebrated. Congratulations to all of the award winners; let our success energize the finance industry to do more to protect nature — and to do better — in the coming years."

Read more about the Finance for Biodiversity Summit 2025 here.

Final FSDA Progress Report Published

Documents meaningful progress on deforestation-related risks since the organization's inception four years ago

Since its launch at COP26, FSDA Finance Sector Deforestation Action has brought together leading investors to raise the ambition of the financial sector in tackling deforestation as a systemic financial risk — and at Storebrand AM, we're proud to have been part of that journey.

In October, the FSDA launched its final progress report, which documents how investors, companies, and wider stakeholders have driven meaningful progress on deforestation-related risks over the past four years. Several incredible milestones that have been achieved along the way:

- All FSDA participants now have policies addressing or covering exposure to deforestation and have assessed and disclosed their exposure to related risks
- Over 100 company and bank engagements supported, with 73% of participants engaging policymakers
- Companies show stronger disclosure on traceability, due diligence, and deforestation-free supply chains through CDP

"The FSDA has been a valuable platform for learning how investors can reduce deforestation risk in portfolios and engage collaboratively with companies and banks. We've shown that systematic action is possible, even without perfect data or regulation. But to end deforestation by 2030, coordinated efforts from governments, businesses, civil society, and the financial sector are essential. At Storebrand Asset Management, we remain strongly committed to driving progress on this issue." noted Vemund Olsen, Senior Sustainability Analyst at Storebrand AM, when the report was published.

At Storebrand AM, we're proud to have contributed to this important work and to the growing recognition that addressing deforestation is essential for both climate resilience and long-term financial stability. It's crucial that the momentum continues. Storebrand AM will carry this vital agenda forward as part of IIGCC's Deforestation Investor Group — a platform to help mainstream investor action to halt deforestation and protect value across the financial system.

Read the full FSDA 2025 Progress Report here, and see the press release here.

Belem Investor Statement Published

Collective stand by global group of investors, seeking policy changes to address financial and systemic risks posed by loss of forests

At the end of October, in the runup to the COP30 climate conference, Storebrand AM was among the very first signatories of the Belém Investor Statement on Rainforests — a united call from investors urging governments urging governments to strengthen forest protection and align public policy with global nature goals.

The statement underlines a massive systemic problem: in 2024 alone, the world lost 6.7 million hectares of tropical forest — an amount equivalent to 18 football pitches during each minute of the year. Forest loss undermines climate stability, biodiversity, and the ecosystem services that global markets and portfolios depend on.

Jan Erik Saugestad, CEO, Storebrand AM noted when the statement was published: "Deforestation undermines the natural systems that global markets rely on — from climate regulation to food and water security. As a long-term investor, we see it as a clear financial and systemic risk. Through the Belém Investor Statement, we're urging governments to provide the policies needed to protect forests and safeguard economic stability. Deforestation is not just an environmental concern — it's a material financial risk that affects long-term value creation."

The statement was backed by a total of 51 institutional investors from around the world, representing assets of USD 4.5 trillion. Together, we warned that the ongoing loss of forests constitutes financial and systemic risks to portfolios and economies. This makes it critical for governments to implement policies to halt and reverse tropical deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Specifically, in the statement we call upon governments to respond by:

- Promote deforestation-free and legal trade
- Strengthen transparency and disclosure requirements
- Enforce robust forest protection laws
- Align public finance and national plans with nature goals

We stand ready to align our investments with a deforestation-free future, and to support policies that enable the transition.

Read the full Belem Investor Statement on Rainforests and join the conversation about it on Linkedin.


Storebrand's Vemund Olsen

Brazil

From Policy Debates to Field Realities

Storebrand AM at PRI in Person and PRI Spring in Brazil

In November 2025, Storebrand Asset Management participated in PRI in Person, the world's leading conference on responsible investment, held in São Paulo, Brazil. Bringing together thousands of investors, policymakers, regulators, companies and civil society actors, the conference provided a global forum to discuss how capital markets can support the transition to a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy. With Brazil as host, the programme placed particular emphasis on emerging markets, nature-related risks and opportunities, and the role of public policy in shaping sustainable finance outcomes.

The official conference programme reflected the rapidly evolving sustainability landscape. High-level plenaries and technical sessions explored topics such as the biodiversity finance gap, transition planning across asset classes, responsible investment in Latin America, sustainable food systems, and Indigenous and community land rights. A recurring theme was how investors can navigate growing political and regulatory tensions while maintaining credible, long-term transition ambitions.

Against this backdrop, **Vemund Olsen**, Senior Sustainability Analyst at Storebrand Asset Management, contributed to several sessions that connected policy, stewardship and on-the-ground realities. In a main programme panel on *Deregulation or simplification?*, Olsen addressed the need for sustainability regulation that is both ambitious and workable, warning that efforts to simplify frameworks must not weaken their substance or undermine decision-useful data for investors. He also participated in side events focused on deforestation and nature-related stewardship, sharing Storebrand AM's experience as an early mover in developing deforestation policies and engaging with companies and policymakers to reduce systemic risk.

In the days prior to the conference, Olsen joined an investor field trip organised by PRI Spring and partners to the Cerrado biome. Visiting community-led restoration initiatives and the Kalunga Quilombola territory provided first-hand insight into how land rights, environmental regulation and local livelihoods intersect in practice. These experiences added depth to the conference discussions, reinforcing the message that effective sustainable finance frameworks must be grounded in real-world conditions and support those who act as stewards of nature.

Olsen also took part in meetings between the Investor Dialogue on Deforestation (IPDD), and Brazilian government agencies, including the Central bank and the Treasury, taking advantage of the fact that many IPDD members were in São Paulo for the PRI conference.

Together, this illustrates Storebrand Asset Management's approach to sustainable investment: combining policy engagement, investor collaboration and field-based learning to better align capital with climate, nature and long-term value creation. The articles that follow explore these contributions in more detail.

"....Olsen emphasized that sustainable finance policy delivers tangible benefits for investors by mobilizing capital, reducing systemic risk and improving market transparency...."

Storebrand's Vemund Olsen in the panel discussion at the PRI In Person 2025 event

Deregulation or Simplification?

Investor Perspectives on the Policy Framework for Transition

At PRI in Person 2025 in São Paulo, Storebrand Asset Management participated in a panel discussion addressing a timely and contested question: whether recent international policy reforms amount to deregulation, or rather necessary simplification to support the climate transition. The session brought together investors, policy experts and standard setters to explore how regulation can remain ambitious while being workable across markets at different stages of maturity.

The discussion was moderated by Aleksandra Palinska of Eurosif, who steered the conversation toward the balance regulators must strike between competitiveness, efficiency and long-term sustainability goals. Margarita Pirovska from the PRI set the scene by outlining what constitutes an "enabling policy environment" for investors, highlighting global trends and the growing expectation that sustainable finance frameworks support real-economy transition, rather than only risk disclosure. Contributions from Daniela Mohr of AFP Cuprum and Jacques Morris of the International Transition Plan Network highlighted developments in Latin American regulation and the important role of transition plans in guiding both policy and capital allocation.

Representing Storebrand Asset Management, Vemund Olsen focused on the dual challenge facing investors: the need for ambitious and credible sustainability regulation that drives real change, and the equally important need for clarity, consistency and decision-useful data. He argued that simplification efforts—such as the EU's Omnibus package—should not dilute the substance of key sustainability rules, including those related to corporate reporting, due diligence, transition plans and deforestation. Weakening these frameworks risks undermining investor confidence and reducing transparency at a time when comparable and reliable data is essential for assessing transition risks and opportunities.

Olsen emphasized that sustainable finance policy delivers tangible benefits for investors by mobilizing capital, reducing systemic risk and improving market transparency. Drawing on Storebrand AM's long-standing focus on deforestation, he noted that clear and enforceable policy frameworks are particularly important in addressing nature-related risks embedded in global supply chains. Finally, he underlined that investor engagement in policymaking is not optional, but a necessary part of fulfilling fiduciary duties and ensuring that regulatory frameworks support long-term value creation.

The session concluded with interactive table discussions on how investors can collaborate more effectively to strengthen their policy voice—reinforcing that well-designed regulation remains a cornerstone of a credible and orderly transition.

Sao Paolo, Brazil, November 4th, 2025

PRI Spring and IPDD event: Nature-related stewardship to mitigate risks and achieve impacts

At this side event to the PRI In Person conference, Senior Sustainability Analyst Vemund Olsen participated alongside Viviane Torinelli from Brazil's Central Bank and Reina Berlien from Brandywine Global in a fireside chat organized by PRI Spring and the Investor Policy Dialogue on Deforestation (IPDD).

As co-chair of IPDD's Brazil working group, Olsen discussed the financial risks arising from deforestation, and the work of IPDD in engaging with policy makers to advocate policies for forest protection and supply chain traceability, and policies to induce financial institutions to align financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The discussion highlighted the impressive progress made by the current administration in Brazil, while also challenging Brazilian institutions like the Central Bank to do more.

Finance Sector Leadership on Deforestation: From Risk to Action

At a side-event organized by Global Canopy and WWF Brazil, in partnership with Accountability Framework Initiative and IIGCC, Vemund Olsen shared Storebrand Asset Management's experience with developing a deforestation policy in 2019 and implementing a strategy to reduce deforestation risk in its investment portfolios.

Bringing together leading financial institutions and civil society partners, the session highlighted practical experiences, actionable tools, and engagement approaches emerging from both Brazilian and global markets.

As an early mover in the financial sector in addressing deforestation, Storebrand was asked to share advice for investors that are new to the field on how to develop deforestation policies, set targets, monitor progress and engage with companies and policy makers through collaborative investor initiatives. The event was well attended by investors from emerging markets, and the event was a successful venue for mutual learning.

→ Storebrand's Vemund Olsen

At the same event, Victoria Voskressenskaia from Lannebo and Bruno Bernardo from Regia Capital shared their impressions from the recent investor field trip organized by PRI Spring, Rainforest Foundation Norway and WWF, in which Olsen also participated.

Photo: Erlend Trebbi/Rainforest Foundation Norway

From Engagement to Reality: Investor Insights from the Cerrado

Text: **Vemund Olsen, Senior Sustainability Analyst**

← The Santa Barbara waterfall in Kalunga Quilombola territory is one example of the region's nature resources

In early November, I participated in an investor field trip to Brazil's Cerrado biome, organised by PRI's Spring initiative together with WWF-Brazil, Rainforest Foundation Norway and the International Institute of Education of Brazil. Ahead of the PRI in Person conference in São Paulo, the visit offered a rare opportunity to connect investor engagement themes on deforestation, biodiversity and land rights with the realities on the ground in one of the world's most threatened ecosystems

The Cerrado is a biodiversity hotspot and Brazil's "cradle of waters", yet more than half of its natural vegetation has already been lost to soy cultivation, cattle ranching and mining. Driving north from Brasília into Chapada dos Veadeiros, the contrast between vast monoculture landscapes and intact native vegetation brought home the systemic nature risks embedded in global agricultural supply chains.

One of the most powerful examples of solutions came from a visit to Cerrado de Pé, a community-based seed collector network restoring degraded land using native species. Around 700 seed collectors from 240 local families harvest roughly 30 tonnes of seeds annually, supplying both ecological restoration projects and companies legally required to rehabilitate land. This illustrates how well-designed environmental regulation can simultaneously protect biodiversity and create sustainable livelihoods. For investors, it underlines that credible restoration requirements—such as those we advocate through our engagement with soy traders—depend on functioning local value chains to be achievable at scale.

30 tonnes of seeds

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Photo: Erlend Trebbi/Rainforest Foundation Norway

These experiences reinforced a central lesson for sustainable investment: nature-positive outcomes cannot be delivered through corporate commitments alone. They require strong land governance, recognition of community rights and targeted capital flows that empower local stewards.

Photo: Erlend Trebbi/Rainforest Foundation Norway

← The Cerrado de Pé a community-based seed collector network demonstrated its work restoring degraded land using native species.

Equally compelling was the visit to the Kalunga Quilombola territory, home to descendants of formerly enslaved people who established free communities centuries ago. Despite intense pressure from surrounding agricultural expansion, around 80% of the Kalunga territory remains intact. This is not a coincidence: it reflects the effectiveness of collective land stewardship by Indigenous and traditional peoples. However, only a small share of the Kalunga's traditional lands currently has formal legal title, leaving the territory under constant threat and highlighting the need for sustained financial and political support.

These experiences reinforced a central lesson for sustainable investment: nature-positive outcomes cannot be delivered through corporate commitments alone. They require strong land governance, recognition of community rights and targeted capital flows that empower local stewards. Initiatives such as Brazil's proposed Tropical Forests Forever Facility, with earmarked funding for Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, could be transformative if designed and implemented well.

For Storebrand Asset Management, the trip strengthened the case for continued, ambitious stewardship on agricultural supply chains and for engaging policymakers on enabling frameworks. Seeing these dynamics first-hand added urgency—and optimism—to our work to align capital with the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems like the Cerrado.

← Storebrand AM, through Nature Action 100, regularly engages in dialogue with companies in the Forestry and Packaging sector, which includes forest management, timber and wood products, pulp and paper and forest products for bioenergy.

Site visit to Finland

Field report from engagements with UPM and Stora Enso/NA100 case

Stora Enso and UPM in Finland are two companies in the sector that Storebrand AM is having regular and constructive dialogues with, as part of structured engagements.

Although most meetings take place virtually, several Nature Action 100 investor participants had the opportunity to visit their sites in person and discuss key challenges for the sector with company experts.

A critical issue raised with the companies was corporate commitments to best practice certification systems – both from directly managed forests and their supply chains. Storebrand AM has previously raised concerns over the push from some Swedish companies to increase logging volumes at the expense of sustainability standards.

Our expectation is that companies actively engage in best practice market certification systems, both internationally and nationally, with the aim of improving the ecological condition of the production forest. Our general impression is that most companies are following good practices in managing forests under their direct control. At the same time most of the companies depend on additional sourcing from smallholders or private holders of forest where companies have less direct influence, and where incentives and priorities may be different.

We recognize it can be challenging for individual companies to place additional requirements on independent private smallholders, particular in a situation of competition for limited resources. To address this issue, Storebrand AM participants are in dialogue with companies to encourage sector-wide progress.

Storebrand AM to continue in Nature Action 100 steering group committee

As a founding member of Nature Action 100, Storebrand is pleased to continue to support the initiative. The members were nominated by the Nature Action 100 Partners to guide the strategic direction and support needs of the initiative during their two-year term.

The Launching Investor Group was united on a few basic assumptions regarding the material financial risks of nature loss and the economic benefits of restoring it. This vision has not changed. Together – alongside with more than 200 investors and 100 global corporations – Storebrand will continue to accelerate action to protect nature.

The cohort includes:

- Emine Isciel, Head of Climate and Environment, Storebrand Asset Management
- Seiji Kawazoe, Senior Stewardship Officer, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset Management
- Eugenie Mathieu, Nature Stewardship Lead, Aviva
- Laura Moss-Bromage, Planet Lead, Church Commissioners of England
- Lynn Paquin, Portfolio Manager, CalSTRS
- Annie Sanders, Director of Shareholder Advocacy, Green Century Capital Management
- Jenn-Hui Tan, CSO, Fidelity International

Storebrand AM joins the Advisory Board of Finance for Biodiversity Foundation

The Finance for Biodiversity (FfB) Foundation — an independent non-profit organisation established in 2021 — unites around 200 global financial institutions as signatories of the FfB Pledge. Collectively, they manage over €23 trillion in assets across 29 countries. FfB plays a critical and unique role in supporting financial institutions to act on nature loss and drive positive impact as well as advocating for world leaders to take decisive action to halt ad reverse biodiversity loss this decade.

The Finance for Biodiversity established an Advisory Board in 2022 to advise the Board on executive strategy and ensure progress against the Pledge commitments. The Advisory Board consists of 12 representatives from financial institutions who are members of the Foundation, where Storebrand is represented with Emine Isciel. The Advisory Board plays a vital role in guiding the FfB Foundation's strategic direction, providing independent expertise, and ensuring that biodiversity remains firmly embedded in financial decision-making worldwide.

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