



SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK

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SBTN announces first companies publicly adopting science-based targets for nature

- Global luxury group **Kering** adopts the first-ever science-based targets for both freshwater and land, while global biopharma company **GSK** and building materials and solutions company **Holcim** have adopted the first science-based targets for freshwater
- These disclosures come following the conclusion of the Science Based Targets Network's (SBTN) year-long corporate pilot program, with majority of participating companies receiving validation for some or all targets
- Trail-blazing companies will move ahead with adopting and publicly disclosing targets – focused on freshwater and land - addressing key drivers of nature loss within the ecosystems they and their suppliers operate
- Announcement comes as business and world leaders gather at COP16, with SBTN's Executive Director Erin Billman calling for urgent corporate action to tackle nature loss

Wednesday 30 October 2024: The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN), part of the Global Commons Alliance, has today announced the first set of companies publicly adopting science-based targets for nature, beginning with freshwater and land; a significant milestone in advancing ambitious and measurable corporate action on nature.

It comes following SBTN's year-long pilot program with a trail-blazing cohort of companies trialing science-based targets for nature, which concluded mid this year. As a result of the pilot, SBTN has demonstrated a credible way for companies to take ambitious action for nature, addressing key drivers of nature loss in the ecosystems they and their suppliers operate, and aligning their business strategies with nature positive goals. The pilot program's success is underscored by the majority (60%) of participating companies receiving validation for some or all of their targets.

Among companies which received validated targets, global biopharma company GSK, global luxury group Kering and building materials company Holcim are the first set of companies to move forward with publicly disclosing and adopting their targets.

This positive milestone comes as world and business leaders gather at COP16 in Colombia, where urgent action to preserve biodiversity and stop the destruction of nature have been at the heart of negotiations. With all industry sectors having a portion of their direct operations or supply chain highly dependent on nature, the business case for taking action to address nature loss and climate change together has never been clearer.

Science-based targets for nature are a key mechanism for companies to deliver on the Global Biodiversity Framework. Aiming directly at the drivers and pressures of nature loss, science-based targets for nature will tell a company if they are taking enough of the right actions, in the right places, at the right time in order to do their part to reverse and halt nature loss by 2030. These much needed targets on nature build on and complement existing corporate targets on climate.

Erin Billman, Executive Director of Science Based Targets Network, said: *“With global nature loss accelerating at an unprecedented rate, it's clear that urgent, decisive action is required from governments and business alike to reverse and halt this trend. For companies, this means*



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understanding their material impacts and dependencies on nature, and taking ambitious science-based action to address and mitigate those impacts.

“Our corporate pilot has shown that science-based targets for nature are both feasible and valuable, closing a critical gap in corporate sustainability. We’re pleased to see GSK, Kering and Holcim lead the way by publicly adopting the world’s first science-based targets beyond climate; demonstrating that a clear and credible pathway for ambitious action for nature is possible. The time for companies to act is now — responsibly, urgently, and with the ambition that matches the scale of the challenge.”

Trailblazing companies set and publicly adopt first science-based targets beyond climate

The corporate pilot enabled companies to comprehensively assess their biggest impacts on nature, to quantify those impacts and to set science-based targets – beginning with freshwater and land.

Of companies with validated targets, those which have moved ahead with public adoption include:

- **Kering** - Global luxury group **Kering** has set its first freshwater quantity target for its direct operations, including Kering owned tanneries and factories, and upstream suppliers, with an initial focus on the Arno basin in Tuscany where most of the Group’s tanneries and supplier tanneries are located, equalling a significant percentage of the Group’s water use across its supply chain. Kering has also set science-based targets to address its impact on land, including targets to address no conversion of natural ecosystems, to reduce its land footprint, and to engage in materially relevant landscape initiatives. The company plans to continue its use of certifications for its sourcing downstream of key commodities such as wood and rubber, and to continue its efforts to promote regenerative agriculture practices in its supply chain which will improve both land and water footprints.
- **GSK** - Global biopharma company **GSK** has set company goals on both climate and nature, which includes a commitment to be water neutral in its operations in water-stressed regions by 2030. As part of the pilot, GSK implemented the SBTN’s guidance to validate its approach to freshwater, focusing on its manufacturing site in Nashik, India, which is located in a water-stressed basin. As a result, GSK has set a freshwater quantity target for its direct operations, with an initial focus on the Upper Godavari basin in India.
- **Holcim** - Global building materials and solutions company **Holcim**, with its granular water data for its direct operations, was able to set an ambitious target to reduce freshwater withdrawals in its direct operations, targeting the Moctezuma basin in Mexico. The company is already engaging with suppliers to collect geolocation data and gain more traceability for science-based target-setting.

Pilot companies with validated targets that have not yet proceeded with publicly adopting the targets have six months from the conclusion of the pilot (until January 10, 2025) to do so. SBTN will be publishing a corporate target tracker on its website in early 2025, to provide transparency of targets set. In addition, some pilot companies plan to resubmit their targets using SBTN's updated methods published in July, while others viewed the pilot as a test and learn opportunity to gain insights for future commitments.

Significant value gained from target setting process



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Participating companies in the corporate pilot highlighted that setting targets helped raise corporate ambition and drive credible action for nature, including moving beyond zero deforestation to zero conversion of natural ecosystems. [Insights gathered](#) from the pilot revealed that companies view science-based targets for nature as instrumental in establishing a foundation for measurable, comparable, and standardized approaches.

SBTN's target-setting process not only helped drive more strategic discussions around business functions at a leadership level, but also provided credibility and a common language to advance engagement with stakeholders.

Momentum building for SBTs for nature

In response to pilot learnings, SBTN has strengthened its methods to address challenges with feasibility and complexity of the target validation requirements, with updated methods published in July.

Over 150 additional companies – through SBTN's [Corporate Engagement Program](#) and its service provider program – are now preparing to set science-based targets for nature. The upcoming new target validation service, hosted by the Global Commons Alliance [Accountability Accelerator](#) will enable companies to submit targets and have them validated, ensuring their targets are robust and in line with what science requires.

Looking forward, SBTN's next generation of nature targets for 2025 will address corporate demand for guidance on target implementation and broader coverage of freshwater and land targets alongside additional biodiversity integration. SBTN will also deliver the first ocean targets for companies as well as equipping cities with initial guidance on science-based targets for nature.

~ENDS~

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For more information, please follow the below links:

[An overview of SBTN's target setting process](#)

[SBTN's pilot outcomes](#)

[Details on GSK, Holcim and Kering targets and FAQs](#)

[Corporate pilot case studies](#)

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND ON TARGET ADOPTION COMPANIES

- **Kering**
 - Kering is a global luxury group that has been an active member of the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) Corporate Engagement Program since its inception in 2020.



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As part of the corporate pilot, Kering submitted science-based targets for both freshwater and land.

- In alignment with SBTN's guidance, Kering has set a target to reduce freshwater use in one of its top-priority basins by 21% by 2030, with plans to set similar targets for other material basins which will be unveiled in the coming months. The target applies to the Group's direct operations, including Kering owned tanneries and factories, and upstream suppliers.
- Kering has adopted all 3 categories of targets covered in SBTN's Land methods and as per SBTN's requirements. This includes:
 - A land footprint reduction target of 3% by 2030 from a 2022 baseline, going beyond SBTN's requirements (0.35% per year)
 - Landscape engagement targets to substantially improve ecological and social conditions, through regenerative agriculture, in sourcing landscapes covering 695,500 hectares by 2030
 - Building on its 2023 goals, a commitment to 100% conversion-free and deforestation-free for downstream leather sourced from Europe by 2025 and globally by 2027
- Reference Kering's pilot case study for further details [here](#).
- **GSK**
 - GSK is a global biopharma company which set twin company goals on both climate and nature in 2020. This includes a commitment to be water-neutral in its operations in water-stressed basins by 2030.
 - Being involved in the pilot has been an important step to help GSK to better understand and measure its impacts and dependencies on nature and prioritize areas for action.
 - As a result, GSK has set an SBTN validated freshwater quantity target for its direct operations in India. It has committed to reducing its freshwater net withdrawal in its direct operations in the Upper Godavari basin in India by 100% by 2030 (compared to an average 2018 – 2022 baseline).
 - To deliver this target, the company is reducing freshwater use at its manufacturing site in Nashik, enhancing water replenishment through nature restoration, as well as driving collective action with local stakeholders to address shared water challenges.
- **Holcim**
 - Holcim is a building materials and solutions company and in its target-setting journey focused on sites that fell within its three most significant business segments: aggregates, cement and ready mix.
 - As Holcim had granular water data for its direct operations, it was able to set ambitious targets for its direct operations. The business has set a freshwater quantity target, to reduce its freshwater withdrawals in its direct operations in the Moctezuma basin by 39% by 2030 (compared to an average 2022 – 2023 baseline) with plans to expand this approach to other priority basins.
 - Participation in the SBTN pilot has encouraged Holcim to start an extensive supplier traceability initiative to further improve the granularity of its future target-setting.
 - Reference Holcim's pilot case study for further details [here](#).



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SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM TARGET ADOPTION COMPANIES

Marie-Claire Daveu, Chief Sustainability Officer, Kering: *“Setting and adopting science-based targets for nature was the next necessary step to complement and enhance Kering’s long-standing efforts to protect and restore biodiversity. Land and water are critically interlinked and we are proud to be the first company in the fashion industry, and across all sectors globally, to adopt both land and freshwater science-based targets for nature. Systemic transformation is absolutely essential - reducing and restoring freshwater and land impacts according to SBTN’s comprehensive methodology ensures standardization, which will help catalyze the way forward for the world’s business community.”*

Claire Lund, VP of Environmental Sustainability, GSK: *“Climate change and nature loss are an urgent threat to human health. At GSK, we are getting ahead of disease by taking action on both climate and nature, across our value chain. As a global biopharma company with science at its core, we recognise the importance of taking a science-based approach to nature, and we’re excited to be one of the first companies to have a validated SBTN target. This is an important step in our plan to reduce our impact on nature at the same time as building business resilience.”*

Nollaig Forrest, Chief Sustainability Officer, Holcim, said: *“At Holcim, nature matters. That’s why we are working to ensure our nature targets are backed by science. As a first-mover company that participated in SBTN’s pilot program, Holcim is now equipped with a gold standard approach to comprehensively assess our biggest impacts on nature, measure those impacts accurately, and set targets to address key drivers of nature loss across our direct operations and suppliers.”*

ABOUT THE SCIENCE BASED TARGETS NETWORK

The Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) unites a coalition of global environmental organizations in a civil-society and science-led initiative to equip companies and cities with the guidance they need to stay within an environmentally safe and socially just operating space. SBTN is extending the concept and momentum of the Science Based Targets initiative, which helps companies mitigate their GHG emissions, to address broader environmental issues through science-based targets for nature. The Science Based Targets Network is part of the Global Commons Alliance (GCA), a growing coalition of scientists, philanthropists, businesses and innovators, inspiring new ideas and action to safeguard what’s common and precious to us all: the global commons.

ABOUT THE ACCOUNTABILITY ACCELERATOR

The Global Commons Alliance Accountability Accelerator’s mission is to drive corporate and financial institution action to reverse nature loss by building an impactful accountability and transformation ecosystem. As a re-granter and an orchestrator, the Accelerator accomplishes this by supporting a tight web of stakeholders working globally and locally to enable, incentivize, and pressure corporations and financial institutions to deliver credible and verifiable action.

In May 2024, SBTN appointed the Accountability Accelerator to host target validation services for its corporate science-based targets for nature. Coming online by the end of 2024 for a selected group of



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companies that applied via SBTN's recent public expression of interest, the Accountability Accelerator plans to expand its validation services to additional companies in Q1 2025. As part of its preparations to launch the service, the Accountability Accelerator has developed a new digital validation platform and is in the process of recruiting an Integrity Council to ensure the independence and robustness of the validation process. [Learn more](#) about the Accelerator's progress on the preparations to launch the validation service.