

STEP 2 — Interpretation & Prioritization

Helps companies identify and focus on the areas of their value chain where action will have the greatest impact - pinpointing priority locations, impacts and dependencies for target setting. Companies who selected accelerated pathways in Step 1: Assess will focus their analysis in Step 2 on the narrower scope already defined. Companies can have Step 2 (or Step 1 & 2 together) independently validated as a standalone milestone towards target setting, through the Accountability Accelerator.

Why Step 2 matters



Focus target-setting on
where nature needs it most



Apply a double materiality
approach



Align with science and
stakeholder expectations

*“After getting the Steps 1 & 2 results, we took quick actions to mitigate risk for some sourcing locations”
~ pilot company*

What's involved

- Define target boundary, the activities and locations that should be prioritized for target setting.
- Rank locations based on environmental materiality - where company pressures on nature are greatest and where biodiversity is most in need of action.
- To identify priority locations and activities for target-setting in Step 3, apply a holistic prioritization approach that integrates a double materiality lens - including additional social priorities, dependencies on nature, and strategic factors.
- Prepare for validation using templates from the Accountability Accelerator.

Typical timeframe and cost: Timelines vary by company, but most of the preparation work happens in Steps 1–2, when companies are gathering data and assessing impacts. These steps in total typically take around 1 to 6 months, depending on readiness, data availability, and internal capacity. Once a company submits its work for validation through the Accountability Accelerator, it has achieved its milestone for the *Step Up for Nature* initiative. The validation review stage itself typically takes around nine weeks, with the total validation process varying depending on scope and complexity. Because company circumstances vary widely, SBTN cannot provide cost estimates for the internal work companies complete prior to validation. Validation pricing, however, is available [here](#).

Resources & Next Steps

- Find all Step 2 resources [here](#) in the online target-setting guide
- Begin with defining target boundaries (Step 2a) [here](#)
- Understand the stages of the validation process [here](#)