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Developing indicators for biodiversity monitoring in short rotation tree plantations

Karlberg, A. ¹; Nordin, A. ¹; Zanardo, C. ¹; Londe de Camargos, V. ²; Giordano, H. ³; Marjokorppi, A. ¹

¹ *Stora Enso*

² *Veracel Celulose S.A. Eunápolis, BA, Brasil*

³ *Montes del Plata, Colonia, Uruguay*

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Correspondence

Anna Karlberg,
anna.karlberg@storaenso.com

Global biodiversity loss has increased societal expectation to businesses to assess and manage their dependencies on biodiversity and transparently report their biodiversity impacts. Various global frameworks have been developed to manage risks and/or report the impacts. The metrics and indicators of the global frameworks are generic in nature and do not necessarily capture local biodiversity impacts. Stora Enso has publicly declared in our Sustainability Strategy an ambition to have a net positive impact on biodiversity. For short rotation plantations Stora Enso has set an objective to develop granular, yet practical and applicable indicators for monitoring and reporting biodiversity impacts and developments over time. The selection of indicators needs to reflect the connection between biodiversity management actions and outcomes, i.e. that: i) there are purposeful biodiversity measures in place that ii) result in monitorable outcomes. Hence Stora Enso in collaboration with the joint venture partners in Veracel and Montes del Plata has developed biodiversity indicators adapted to the local conditions for the Eucalypt plantations in Brazil and Uruguay, respectively. The overarching goal is to have indicators that reflect that the environmental and biodiversity measures that are integrated in the management of the plantations have real and measurable effects promoting landscape level biodiversity. The selected biodiversity indicators meet the following criteria: Science-based, measurable and quantifiable, reliable, recurrent, and cost-effective monitoring to follow trends over time. With biodiversity indicators in place, Stora Enso wishes to further the development of adaptive biodiversity management. This means to continuously monitor biodiversity management performance, via the indicators, to enable further adaptation and development of biodiversity positive actions. The indicators will be publicly published to provide full transparency. In preparation for launching the indicators in the fall 2023, the intention at this conference is to present the indicators and consult with the audience on their purposefulness.

