
Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum meeting

Date	October 2024
Topic	Jurisdictional survey to inform ISSB research projects
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Purpose of this session

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To provide SSAF members with an overview of the responses received on the jurisdictional survey conducted to inform the ISSB's research on Biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services and Human Capital.

Question for SSAF members

Staff welcome SSAF members input to understand if there are any key themes that are missing from the analysis conducted on the feedback received and to identify potential areas of follow up.

New ISSB projects

The ISSB has **finalised the decisions** for its next two-year work plan and has started **two new research projects**:



Biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services

- Growing interest among investors for improved disclosure
- Build from pre-existing initiatives such as SASB Standards, CDSB guidance and TNFD



Human capital

- Affects companies of all sizes and types
- Opportunity to address a lack of consistent, comparable disclosures
- Includes both employees and workers in value chain

Initial research areas



Horizon scanning

Further understanding the existing disclosure landscape (includes analysis of TNFD, SASB Standards and CDSB but also identifying other sources including jurisdictional material)



Detailed understanding

Further understand the detail of existing materials and how this may inform the ISSB's ongoing research

Overview of survey

Purpose

The purpose of this survey was to **gather information to build an overall understanding of jurisdictional corporate disclosure requirements relating to nature and the workforce.**

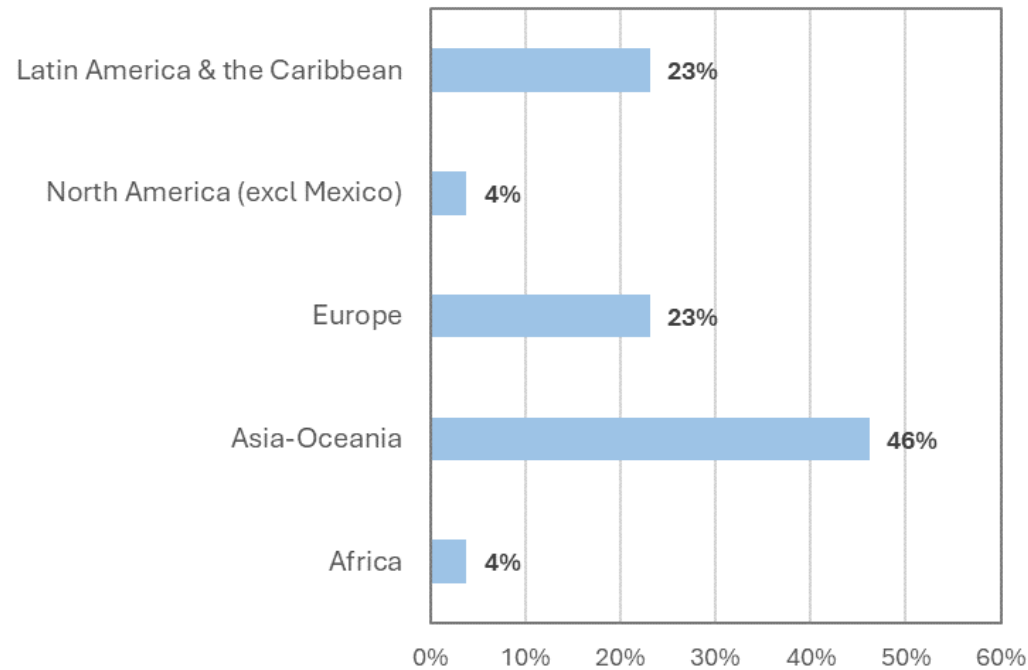
The outcome of this survey will inform the ISSB's research projects on biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services (BEES), and human capital (HC), which were added to the ISSB's workplan following the *Consultation on agenda priorities* in 2023.

Survey questions (both nature and workforce)

1. Existing requirements: Do you or any other relevant authorities in your jurisdiction have existing corporate disclosure requirements relating to nature and/or workforce issues? Who is the intended audience for the disclosures generated by the requirements?
2. Upcoming requirements: Do you or any other relevant authorities in your jurisdiction have existing corporate disclosure requirements relating to nature and/or workforce issues?
3. Other relevant research: Have you (or another authority in your jurisdiction) conducted additional research related to nature and/or workforce issues that could be useful to inform the ISSB's research projects relating to nature and the workforce?

Overview of responses

Total responses: 26 (including EU)



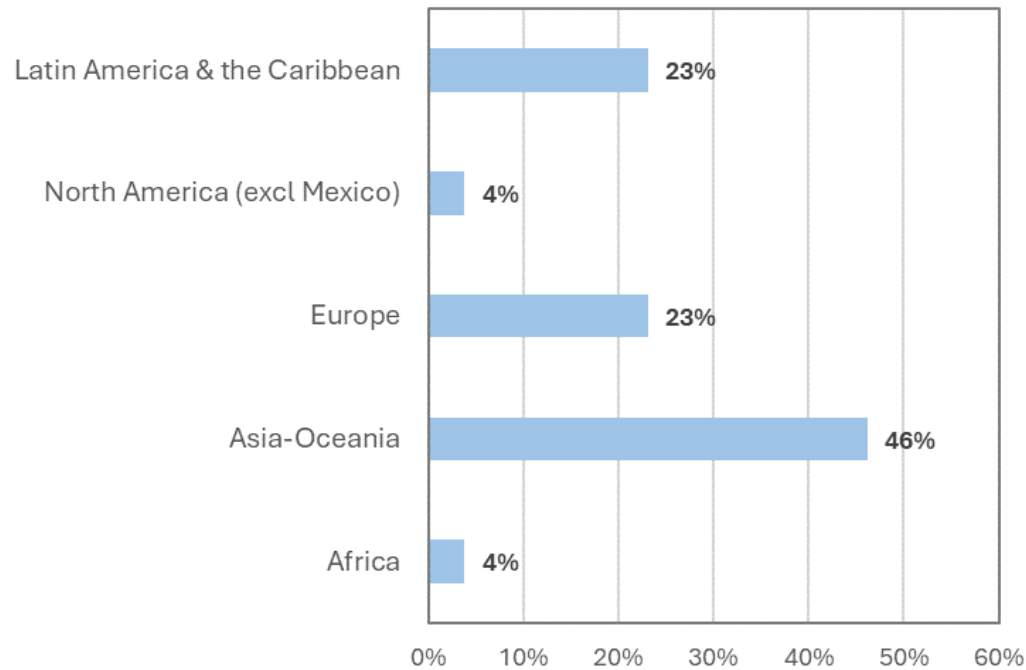
List of respondents' jurisdictions: Mexico, Ukraine, Estonia, EU, Brazil, Thailand, Panama, China, Kuwait, Kenya, Malta, India, Korea, Australia, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, UK, Qatar, Slovenia, and Chile.

Are there exiting requirements on BEES and/or HC?				
	Yes		No	
	85% (22 responses)		15% (4 responses)	
Voluntary/ Mandatory	Voluntary	Mandatory	Not clear from the response	
	2	19	1	
Audience	Investors	Other stakeholders	Both	Depends on the piece of regulation
	6	1	13	2
	Topic			
	BEES	HC	Both	
	1	5	16	
Type of companies	Listed	Non-listed	Both	Not clear
	12	1	7	2

Number of responses

Overview of responses

Total responses: 26 (including EU)



List of respondents' jurisdictions: Mexico, Ukraine, Estonia, EU, Brazil, Thailand, Panama, China, Kuwait, Kenya, Malta, India, Korea, Australia, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, UK, Qatar, Slovenia, and Chile.

Are there exiting requirements on BEES and/or HC?	
Yes	No
85% (22 responses)	15% (4 responses)

Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the jurisdictions have requirements that cover both topics, five jurisdictions require only HC and one jurisdiction requires only BEES
Voluntary vs. mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all jurisdictional requirements are mandatory
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the existing jurisdictional requirements are intended to provide disclosure for both investors and other stakeholders
Applicable company type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all the existing jurisdictional requirement are applicable to listed companies with over half applying to listed companies only

BEES key themes

Many of the jurisdictions with existing BEES-related jurisdictional requirements **have a broad coverage** of BEES-related themes, including water, land, pollution, resource use (including waste), biodiversity and ecosystems. Some jurisdictions have **a more focused scope**, with requirements covering water, waste, air pollution and biodiversity. One jurisdiction surveyed requires disclosure against SASB Standards.

Some of the existing requirements are **overarching** and cover BEES/environment broadly (for example, description of environmental policies and results).

The most common themes are water, resource use (including waste), and biodiversity and ecosystems. Many requirements contain an impact dimension.

Most of the existing BEES-related jurisdictional requirements require **both quantitative and qualitative/descriptive information**.

Human Capital key themes

Diversity, equity and inclusion was the most common theme found in requirements across most jurisdictions. Some of the common items were diversity breakdown of the board/senior/administrators and workforce by gender, race, age, etc and discussions on DEI-related policies.

Other common themes include **pay and benefits, workforce's health and safety, worker wellbeing, training and development, workforce composition and working conditions in the value chain.**

Some jurisdictions have **overarching requirements** that cover HC-related themes broadly.

Next steps (1) - ISSB October meeting

During the October ISSB meeting, the ISSB staff will:

- provide an **overview of the results** from the jurisdictional survey on the ISSB's research projects including:
 - the respondents and an oral update on the SSAF discussion held on 21 October 2024;
 - the key themes for both biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystems services and human capital; and
 - further research to be conducted.
- welcome **input from the ISSB** into the proposed next steps and how the results from the jurisdictional survey can help to inform further research.

Next steps (2) – further engagement with the SSAF

The ISSB staff will conduct further (bilateral) engagement with the SSAF members to, for example,:

- discuss open questions (for example, on the intended audience of the requirements, on challenges with meeting the jurisdictional requirements);
- build a better understanding of the jurisdictional research activities and related outcomes to inform ISSB research; and
- understand industry-specific disclosure¹

Bilateral engagement activities will inform the development of the content and discussion of the next SSAF meeting (Q1 2025).

¹ ISSB research on BEES and human capital is connected with the work to further enhance the SASB standards (see the [paper for the ISSB July 2024 Board meeting](#)). Therefore, this survey and related outcomes will also inform future engagement on industry-specific disclosure.

Next steps (3) – informing other areas of ISSB research

The ISSB staff will utilise the information gathered through the survey to further inform its research. For example, the ISSB staff might consider:

- information on existing jurisdictional requirements to complement its work on current state of BEES- and human capital related disclosure;
- jurisdictional research to inform and complement ISSB research on, for example, implications on entities' prospects of, evidence of investors' interest in, and current state of disclosure of BEES- and human capital-related risks and opportunities

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