

A close-up photograph of a black bear's head and shoulders. The bear has thick, black fur and is looking directly at the camera. It is surrounded by green foliage and branches, some of which are in the foreground, slightly out of focus. The background is a dense forest with various shades of green.

THE BUSINESS OF BEING NATURE POSITIVE

Putting biodiversity at the heart
of sustainable growth

TDP



"To restore stability to our planet, therefore, we must restore its biodiversity, the very thing we have removed. It is the only way out of this crisis that we ourselves have created. We must rewild the world!"

Sir David Attenborough



OUR SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY SO FAR

We find ourselves in an environmental emergency, and it is our responsibility to help secure a more sustainable future. TDP has always been passionate about biodiversity and playing our part in conserving Earth's precious natural resources. Our mission is to build a robust and resilient business that balances the needs of people, profit and prosperity.

Humanity's insatiable consumerism has created a waste crisis and we need to embrace new economic models that value natural capital. When TDP began manufacturing outdoor furniture from recycled plastic we committed to supporting circularity and keeping resources in the value chain. Only by doing that can we protect the natural world and combat the climate crisis.

We have spent the ensuing years building a product range manufactured from 100% British recycled material, diverting waste from landfill and helping address the scourge of plastic pollution. At the same time, we have developed a comprehensive sustainability strategy that will guide us in reaching our goals of becoming an ethical and responsible business.

Our commitment to sustainable resource management has so far seen us prevent more than 4,500 tonnes of plastic waste from going into landfill and polluting waterways.

This is equivalent to saving:



11,250 trees
from being felled.



27,101,250 kg of CO₂
being released into the atmosphere.



27,000,112 kWh
of electric saved.



103,617 cubic metres of waste
going to landfill and reaching our rivers or oceans



Royal recognition

We are incredibly proud of our achievements and are gaining recognition from far and wide. In 2023, we were honoured to receive the King's Award for Enterprise for Sustainable Development. It is important though that we do not rest on our laurels but continue embedding ESG practice across our business and supporting all our stakeholders in making more sustainable choices.



The King's Award Office said:

"TDP has been awarded for a comprehensive and well-executed plan of sustainable initiatives with positive impacts, and for demonstrating inspirational leadership spreading the word about sustainability amongst its peers and through the local business community."

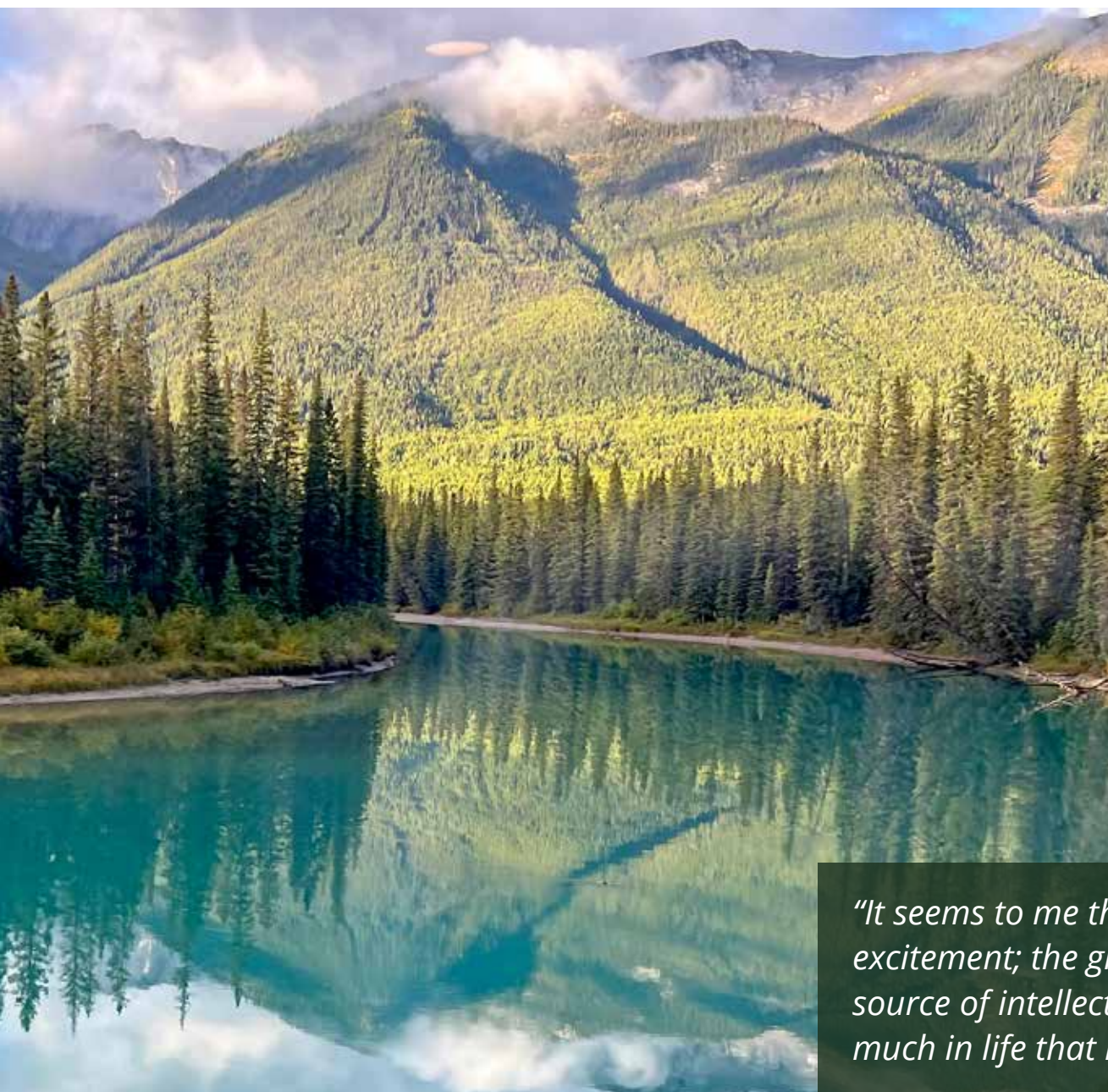


Image: Kicking Horse River, British Columbia – © Rob Barlow

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the vast variety of life you will find in an area. It encompasses a plethora of lifeforms, be it plants, animals or microorganisms. These myriad species form complex ecosystems or networks, which shape and are shaped by Earth's ecosystems and habitats. Everything is interconnected and interrelated and this diversity is the lifeblood of the natural world.

As humans, our very survival relies on this rich variety of species, and the more diverse that mix the better. It is estimated that Earth is home to around 8.7 million species and we depend on that diversity in the form of ecosystem services to meet our needs, whether that is providing breathable air, food, fuel, shelter, water or medicine.

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

Sir David Attenborough

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BUSINESS?

Protecting biodiversity is not only a moral imperative but is now mission critical. Businesses also rely on nature's rich bounty, yet many fail to recognise the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services in providing them with the resources they need to operate. According to the World Economic Forum, \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world's GDP – is moderately or highly dependent on nature.

At TDP we rely on ecosystem services for a whole range of business inputs, including manufacturing materials and supply chain resources, and we have long recognised that there is not a limitless supply. Natural capital must be preserved, regenerated and cherished if it is to continue sustaining companies and individuals alike. The longer materials can be kept in the value chain, the better it is for the planet's resources.

Businesses of all sizes can no longer afford to underestimate the value of biodiversity. As the world begins to wake up to the ecological crisis, there is increasing pressure to measure and mitigate impacts on nature.

Regulation

As sustainability reporting comes to the fore, legislators are forcing businesses to consider their impact on biodiversity. The Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) has developed a framework to manage risks and increase the flow of finance to projects that enhance nature. Soon all businesses will be required to report on these impacts.

Value chains

Whether businesses are looking to win tenders or attract new consumers, more questions are being asked about environmental issues. The conversation is moving beyond emissions and Net Zero with the focus extending to impacts on biodiversity and the natural world.

The onus is now on businesses to be more proactive in tracking and reporting on our relationship with nature. Doing so not only helps companies like ours meet our obligations but will offer us a competitive advantage through more resilient business models. TDP is committed to not only reducing impact but engaging in regenerative practice that treats nature as a key stakeholder.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST BIODIVERSITY LOSS

According to the United Nations (UN), around three-quarters of the land-based environment and two thirds of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human activity. Factors such as population growth, the clearance of land for agriculture, the impact of pollution and the consequences of climate change are destroying habitats.

As a result, around one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. Our species is having a devastating impact on natural capital and the loss of biodiversity has far reaching consequences. Scientists are warning of a sixth mass extinction that is largely being fuelled by anthropogenic or human activity.

When we talk about biodiversity loss, people tend to focus on global hotspots like the Amazon rainforest or the Great Barrier Reef, yet it is happening in our own back yard.



According to the 2023 State of Nature report:

ONE in SIX species in the **UK** are
at **RISK of being LOST** including:

28% of fungi and lichen

31% of amphibians and reptiles

54% of flowering plants

43% of birds

We live in one of the most nature-depleted nations in the world, with less than half of our biodiversity remaining.



A FRESH APPROACH

In December 2022, countries across the world gathered at the UN global summit and agreed a target to reverse biodiversity by 2030. We all have a role to play in turning that goal into reality. For business that means embracing new ways of working that use resources more responsibly.

Humanity's economic model of take – make – discard is not conducive to environmental protection. This linear approach generates huge quantities of waste and fuels biodiversity loss. It is time that business shifts its strategy and focuses on circularity.

In the circular economy resources are retained within the value chain to support a model that is regenerative rather than consumptive. Resources are recycled, reused or reengineered to extend their lifecycles and eliminate waste.

At TDP, our business has always focused on sustainable products and materials, and we are more committed than ever to this ethos by manufacturing furniture from 100% British recycled plastic. Materials are taken from the nation's recycling bins and reengineered to form profiles that can be used to create robust products, be it benches, tables or chairs.

EMBRACING NATURE

The best way of getting people to appreciate the importance of biodiversity is to get them out in the fresh air experiencing the wonder of the natural world for themselves.

Being immersed in nature is key to appreciating its value. Part of our mission is to use our furniture as a way of supporting people in exploring outdoor spaces. That might include children taking their learning outdoors, employees sharing lunch on a picnic table, or members of the public admiring a local beauty spot on a comfy bench.

We continue to expand our customer base as more individuals and organisations recognise the benefits of spending time in the great outdoors. We are now supplying to a whole range of clients, from local schools and councils to the likes of The Environment Agency, the NHS and English Heritage. Not only are they impressed by our commitment to sustainable production, but they see the value of encouraging more people to get out in nature.



Products featured: Tea for Two Set

NATURE PRODUCTS

As well as manufacturing furniture that allows people to enjoy being outdoors, TDP has also developed a range of products that support nature.

Be it a safe shelter for your garden hedgehog, planters to grow your own produce, or a bird feeding table to attract new species to your company's outdoor space, we've got it covered.

These products support biodiversity and in ways that minimise environmental impact. Being made of recycled plastic, they are durable and long lasting. Unlike products made from wood, they are maintenance free. They are impervious to water, resistant to algae, require no surface treatments and will not rot. The longevity of our products also means they won't need replacing every few years. This longer life cycle significantly reduces Greenhouse Gas emissions, and even at end of use, the materials can be kept in the value chain through recycling.



The hedgehog house is ideal for hibernation over winter, raising a family in the spring, or somewhere to hide away during the day or shelter from harsh weather.

Products featured: Hedgehog House

Constructed from plastic lumber, these garden planters are guaranteed to last for years and are sturdy enough to support all planting mediums without issue.



Products featured: Ipstone Planter



Everyone loves watching the birds and providing them with the food and water they need to thrive. Make your outdoor space a haven for nature.



Products featured: Nest Box

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Garnalex

Bristol-based aluminium extruder Garnalex has purchased two of TDP's Bradbourne picnic tables to benefit its 150 employees. The furniture offers them an opportunity to relax outdoors, appreciate nature and boost their sense of wellbeing.

By opting for furniture made from recycled plastic, the business is helping combat plastic pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The purchase is the equivalent of recycling around 25,000 plastic bottles or saving more than half a year's worth of CO2 emissions from the average UK home.

Garnalex's Ross Hartshorn said: *"It's important to us that we give our staff relaxing spaces for them to utilise during their breaks. As a manufacturer that's committed to sustainability and is fully on board with all the benefits of recycling, through our use of UK sourced aluminium, we were delighted to find a local supplier who supplied the seating we were after in such a high-quality, recycled way."*

He added: *"It's already been a great hit with staff, and the wet July and August we've had highlights the importance of the maintenance free nature of TDP's products."*

Products featured: Bradbourne Picnic Table



REAPING THE BENEFITS

Getting people outdoors to appreciate biodiversity not only improves environmental awareness. It makes for happier and healthier people.

The UK Green Building Council's report, *"Nature-based Solutions for the Climate Emergency: The benefits to business and society"* explores the wider benefits of accessing nature.

The report highlights:

23%

decrease in sick leave taken by staff with a view of nature

=

the correlation between exposure to nature and improved mental health

Doctors are now even prescribing outdoor activities in a bid to ease the burden on the NHS.

Lockdown taught many of us to appreciate our local natural environments, seeing and experiencing nature as we had never done before. The challenge post-pandemic is to give everyone an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature.

From concerns about the cost-of-living crisis to socio-political uncertainty, people are under considerable mental strain. Customers who take steps to encourage their stakeholders to enjoy outdoor space report a range of benefits. First and foremost, it enhances people's sense of wellbeing.

Whether you are an individual wanting your family to get outdoors, a public sector body with responsibility for promoting healthier lifestyles, or an employer with a duty of care for staff, it is important to provide access to the natural world.

Using TDP furniture allows you to do this with peace of mind that you are supporting the circular economy. Our website provides information on the environmental credentials of every product, including the emissions saved by using recycled plastic.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Darley Dale Town Council

Darley Dale Town Council has bought and installed ten TDP benches and four planters. They have been positioned around the town to encourage people to spend time outdoors and appreciate their local environment.

Town council clerk Ian Adkin said: "We had started the process of replacing all our old wooden benches. Rather than pay to get them refurbished, we decided instead on a more environmental furniture solution. We decided on more hard-working, environmentally friendly benches in areas of the town that have got the highest footfall."

He added: "The new benches are cleaner and more inviting and suddenly people are sitting in these areas every day. People are sitting down and having their lunch on them which we rarely saw with the previous wooden benches. They've given the area a real lift. They look really smart. One of the things that people really like is that on a rainy day, people can just wipe the wet off the bench - you couldn't do that with the old wooden ones."

Products featured: Dale Bench and Angled Bench



REGENERATIVE THINKING

Businesses can easily get caught up in how to be less bad, focusing on how to reduce negative impacts without making space for regenerative thinking.

"All our lives are better when they're a bit wild." The Wildlife Trusts


When it comes to addressing biodiversity loss, it is important to consider how you might enhance as well as protect natural capital. That can mean anything from freeing up staff to volunteer for tree planting projects to turning some of your outdoor space into a wildflower garden.

At TDP, we are committed to protecting and enriching our local natural heritage. That led us to start supporting Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. As the county's leading conservation charity, the Trust has 55 nature reserves and runs a variety of conservation and wellbeing projects. From surveying bumblebee numbers out in the field to taking children on their first mini-beast hunt, their work is invaluable.


The Trust depends on the support of members to continue having positive impacts and we are excited about engaging with our stakeholders to help ensure Derbyshire's natural beauty can be enjoyed by generations to come.



TDP team event at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

A close-up photograph showing hands carefully placing and securing coral fragments onto a reef structure underwater. The water is clear and blue, and the coral pieces are various shades of brown and tan.


Repairing coral reefs in the Maldives

A photograph of a humpback whale breaching the surface of the water. A large, dark, curved shape is visible above the water line, with a misty spray of water trailing behind it.

Observing humpback Whales in Alaska

SPREADING THE WORD

TDP's founders, Rob and Anna Barlow, are not only passionate about exploring nature in their local area. They have travelled extensively to learn more about how wildlife and the natural world is faring in the face of climate change. Recent adventures have included helping track glacial movement and the impact of plastic pollution in Antarctica, repairing coral reefs in the Maldives, and observing a rich array of species like brown bears and humpback whales in Alaska in their quest to understand more about how ecosystems work and what this means for us all.

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a snowy, mountainous landscape. The woman on the left is wearing a white knit hat and a dark jacket with a yellow stripe. The man on the right is wearing a red jacket with a yellow hood. They are both smiling at the camera.

Rob and Anna Barlow in Antarctica

Both believe they have a responsibility to share the lessons they have learned as individuals and as a sustainable business. Rob has been very proactive in spreading the message about sustainability and biodiversity and is now regularly asked to speak to young people and share best practice at industry events. He is also a sustainable business champion for Derbyshire Dales District Council, talking to local companies about the opportunities available to businesses who embrace the triple bottom line. This means taking account of a company's impacts and measuring and reporting on metrics such as people and planet in addition to profit.



Rob giving a talk on sustainable business at Derby University



TDP team volunteering at Cromford Mills



TDP team event at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE

We are excited about what the future has in store for our business. The TDP team has been hard at work developing a robust sustainability strategy that values the natural world as a key stakeholder. Helping reverse biodiversity loss is now mission critical and we are committed to playing our part.

According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2040 a circular economy has the potential to reduce the annual volume of plastics entering our oceans by 80% and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25%. Our intention is to support that transition by extending our product range and exploring new ways of supporting circularity. That way we can help keep precious resources in the value chain and reduce the amount of waste being consigned to landfill.

We want to take a collaborative approach, working with other businesses and organisations to create closed loops and ensure that one person's waste is used as another's resource. In doing so, we can play an important role in combating plastic pollution, reducing greenhouse emissions and protecting nature.



Join us on our journey.

Visit www.tdp.co.uk, or email us for more information at info@tdp.co.uk

