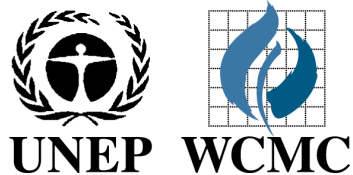


# Standards to Safeguard Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

**CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity**

Melissa Tolley

Head of Business, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

# What is a standard?

*A set of requirements with which a business is required to comply, and against which it can be audited*

*A tool to direct economic activities for improved social and environmental performance*

*A framework for biodiversity and ecosystem services management – to define, guide, assess and monitor company practice*

Recognised as a mechanism for positive change by the Convention on Biological Diversity



# Types of standards

- Regulatory standards – governed by national and international laws
- Voluntary standards of (for example):
  - Financial institutions
  - Individual companies or industries
  - Product certification schemes



# Finance institutions



# Industry standards / product certification



# CBD COP<sub>10</sub> Decision

*“The Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary [of the CBD]...to encourage the development and application of **tools and mechanisms that can further facilitate the engagement of businesses in integrating biodiversity concerns into their work...**”*

CBD COP Decision X/21, paragraph 3C



# CBD COP<sub>11</sub> Decision

*“The Conference of the Parties encourages businesses...to adopt practices and strategies that contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets...and **to consider...the use of voluntary standards and certification schemes that incorporate effective safeguards for biodiversity**, taking into account the needs of developing countries and those with economies in transition.”*

CBD COP Decision XI/7, paragraph 4E



# CBD COP<sub>11</sub> Decision

## – IFC Performance Standards

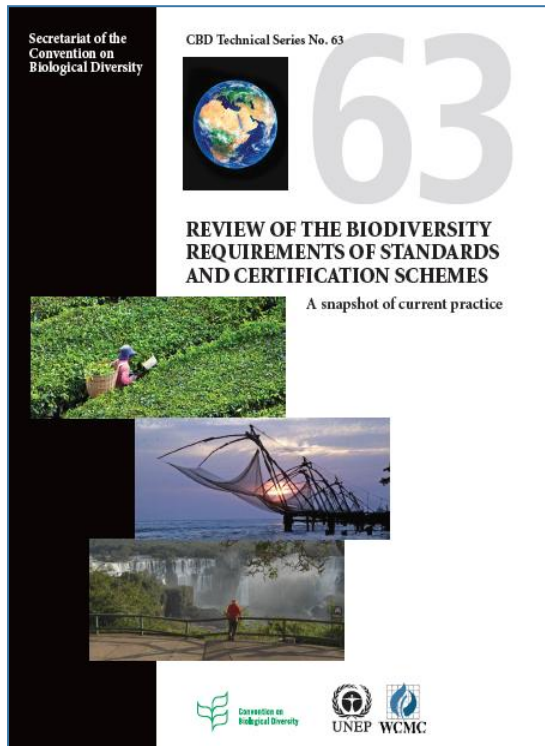
*“The Conference of the Parties calls upon businesses to consider the revised 2012 International Finance Corporation Performance Standards.”*

CBD COP Decision XI/7, paragraph 2



# Review of criteria within standards

- Review of biodiversity (and ecosystem services) requirements of standards and certification schemes
- 36 standards across 8 industry sectors
- Great deal of variation between standards re coverage of biodiversity, definitions used, and measures adopted for biodiversity protection
- Specific guidance on managing ecosystem services rarely given





# Best policy guidance

...for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in standards

Overview of key approaches to strengthen biodiversity and ecosystem services criteria in standards and considerations for the formulation of appropriate policy requirements

Guidance on addressing the pressures economic activity poses to biodiversity and ecosystem services



# Consistency in terms and definitions

The screenshot displays the 'a-z biodiversity terms' website interface. At the top left is the logo 'a-z biodiversity terms'. Below it, a navigation bar shows 'HOME > PROTECTED AREA'. On the right side, there are two images: a green parrot and a puffin, each with 'Image credits' text below it. The main content area is titled 'Protected area' in an orange header. The definition reads: 'A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.' Below this, it references 'Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 <sup>1</sup> Article 2' and provides a detailed description: 'A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.' It then cites 'International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Dudley) 2008 <sup>2</sup>' and concludes with the statement: 'Tacit agreement exists between the CBD Secreariat and IUCN that the definitions are equivalent.' On the right side of the main content, there are several menu sections: 'FIND TERMS BY CATEGORY' with sub-sections for 'internationally recognised definitions', 'key terms', and 'thematic collections'. The 'thematic collections' list includes 'biodiversity components', 'drivers of change', 'operational practices', 'conventions', 'acronyms', and 'ecological processes'. At the bottom right, there is a smaller version of the website logo and a collage of nature images, with logos for 'próteus', 'IPIECA', 'GPP', and 'ICMM' below it.

# Requirements for effective standards

Consistent and comprehensive policy reflecting effective practice

Effective implementation by practitioners

Enabling environment for implementation

Monitoring of success and clear feedback to policy revision

# Effective implementation by practitioners

- Detailed guidance to assist interpretation of the standard
- On-ground support from biodiversity experts
- Willingness and commitment from the company to implement and sufficient resources to do so



# Requirements for effective standards

Consistent and comprehensive policy reflecting effective practice

Effective implementation by practitioners

Enabling environment for implementation

Monitoring of success and clear feedback to policy revision

# Challenges in effective use of standards

- Inconsistency of terminology and approaches
- Multiple standards with different approaches and/or requirements
- Voluntary nature of standards – drivers for uptake
- Absence of an enabling environment at the national level
- Ensuring long-term implementation and success  
– identifying which safeguard measures provide discernible benefits for biodiversity



# Challenges in effective use of standards

- Inconsistency of terminology and approaches
- Multiple standards with different approaches and/or requirements
- Voluntary nature of standards – drivers for uptake
- **Absence of an enabling environment at the national level**
- Ensuring long-term implementation and success  
– identifying which safeguard measures provide discernible benefits for biodiversity



# Enabling environment for standards

Regulatory system at the national level that allows for, and supports, implementation of the biodiversity management practices within standards and promotes the undertaking of aligned and co-ordinated actions by the private sector and conservation practitioners

- Could be developed through the evolution of national biodiversity strategies, supported by the CBD





# Enabling environment for standards

- No framework to allow for biodiversity offsetting
- Regulations that do not permit management of HCV areas in concessions

## Challenges 1 : Legal Recognition of Maintaining HCV in Oil Palm Plantations

- ❑ Recent Law of Land Acquisition by Local Government
- ❑ Under Government Regulations PP No 11/2010, On Idle Land that are not productive , government has the right to acquire such land .
- ❑ HCV or set aside are often considered non-productive/idle land because its not managed in accordance to the terms specified under the land title which is meant for economic development.



A Good Tiger Habitat (shrubs/grassland) is often classified as an Idle Land to a Non-conservationist

wilmar

# Take-home messages

1. Whilst standards are a useful mechanism for guiding biodiversity management within the private sector, there is a need to ensure consistency in approaches and support effective implementation
2. Lack of an enabling environment at the national level is the key challenge to the success of standards in achieving on-ground biodiversity conservation





UNEP



WCMC

[www.unep-wcmc.org](http://www.unep-wcmc.org)

[melissa.tolley@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:melissa.tolley@unep-wcmc.org)