



Global Partnership

for Business and Biodiversity

Information Newsletter – Volume 3, Issue IV – December 2015

Welcome to the final edition of the *Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity* newsletter for 2015. The last few months have seen a flurry of activity, both in the biodiversity community as well as in the larger sustainability world. This past November saw the 2015 CBD Business Forum as well as the Second World Forum on Natural Capital. December witnessed the historic conclusion of the climate change meeting in Paris (COP 21) with the successful adoption of the final agreement. But, as they say, now comes the hard part. Implementation is increasingly the watchword for all of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and if we hope to reach the targets set forth in Paris, to say nothing of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, we must ensure that the business community is fully engaged. We also have to be sure that business understands the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, and that their actions positively address both issues.

The next year will also see our preparations for COP 13, and the 2016 Business Forum, kick into high gear. We will be looking to involve all members of the Global Partnership in this endeavour. As usual, we also look forward to receiving your submissions for the next edition of this newsletter, to be released in early 2016. On behalf of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, please allow me to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season, and all the best for 2016.

Global Partnership Member Newsletters

- *European Union:* http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/newsletters/index_en.htm
- *Germany (Biodiversity in Good Company):* www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/
- *India:* <http://eepurl.com/bEmkWL>
- *South Africa:* www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/news.html
- *Sri Lanka:* <http://business-biodiversity.lk/category/newsletter/>

If we have missed your newsletter, or if you are planning on launching one, please let us know and we will be sure to feature it in future editions.

In this edition:

- Executive Committee Corner
- Results of the 2015 CBD Business Forum and the 5th Meeting of the Global Partnership
- Highlights from the World Forum on Natural Capital
- Information from Partner Organizations (*Flora and Fauna International, the Natural Capital Coalition, WBCSD*)
- Updates from National/Regional Initiatives (*ASEAN, the European Union, Germany, Ghana, India, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal Spain, Sri Lanka*).

Executive Committee Corner

Message from the Chair

Dear members of the Global Partnership,

Over the last few years we have been working to build and strengthen the Global Partnership. 2016 marks the beginning of a new phase for the Partnership. We are currently 21 initiatives, with the potential to reach a number much higher in the coming year. We have promoted meetings, workshops and had the opportunity to be part of two COPs.

Our position is singular in many ways – all our members are busy working in their home countries, many with limited resources but an outstanding resolve, to engage the business sector with the aim of encouraging and supporting a more responsible attitude by companies towards biodiversity. On top of that, we are collectively trying to build something that might be the beginning of a real change in the way business does business. The task ahead of us is not an easy one but if we manage to work as a group, each one contributing their expertise and enthusiasm, we will undoubtedly achieve something great.

In January, we will send out a work plan proposal for 2016 – 2017 for your consideration and contributions. The idea is to establish concrete goals for 2016 and 2017 and draw a map of how we are planning to get there, taking into account what has been discussed during our meetings and conference calls, and we count on your thoughts to make it an ambitious plan we all feel comfortable with.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Reg Melanson of the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council, for his tireless work leading the Global Partnership over the last few years and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for their continuous support.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a successful 2016.



Summary of the 2015 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum

The CBD Business Forum was held on 11-12 November 2015 in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting, which had space for 270 participants, was considerably oversubscribed, and although not all registered



participants showed up, over the two days approximately 250 people were in attendance. These participants represented over 30 different countries from Europe and beyond, and were comprised of business people (about 30 per cent) governments, NGOs and those from other international organizations. The meeting itself featured two opening sessions with welcoming remarks and scene-setting keynote addresses. There was then a session on Natural Capital which looked at different measures including the Natural Capital Protocols and the need to measure/value natural capital properly. This was followed by two parallel sessions on Agriculture and Extractives, and the day concluded with discussion on procurement and supply chains.

Day 2 started with a session on financing and continued into a discussion of partnerships, featuring information on the Finnish initiative, the European Platform and the Global Partnership as well as discussion about various upcoming meetings. The final panel involved a summation of key points of the meeting as well as recommendations to be taken to COP, Although these are still being developed, they centred around improved communication and partnerships, as well as the establishment of a more effective enabling environment.

The Forum was webcast and is available on YouTube (<http://videonet.fi/web/ym/20151111/> and <http://videonet.fi/web/ym/20151111/20151112.html>). A full report will be prepared by the CBD Secretariat and will soon be made available on-line.

Summary Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

The following represents key excerpts (in the interest of space in this newsletter) from the Closed Meeting of the Global Partnership, held on 12 November 2015. The full report is available upon request from the Secretariat:

Formalization of procedures for accepting new members

- Current procedure: The SCBD, upon receiving indication of interest from a prospective new member, sends out an information package outlining requirements and an application form. Upon receipt of the completed form, the SCBD assesses application, forwards information and makes recommendation to the Executive Committee Chair. The Chair then assesses the application and makes recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is given a week to make comments.
- It was noted during the discussion that requirements for national/regional initiatives have been set out (and accepted by membership) in the governance document for the Global Partnership.
- It was decided to leave the current procedure in place, with the option to revisit should the need arise.

Discussion of programme of work for the Global Partnership

- Chair noted that the need for a more formalized programme of work had been identified as being important for the Global Partnership.
- Also noted was the importance of determining what the expectations of both the Global Partnership and the Initiatives are, and how this might be fulfilled.
- At the informal “Pre-Meeting” determination was made to establish two working groups, one on resource management and one on knowledge management/communications.
- New “informal” working groups would also be encouraged as cooperative endeavours by initiatives as appropriate.
 - Resource management: Germany/Edgar Endrukaitis, had volunteered to lead the resources group. He explained that this group could be used to help assess needs of the Partnership and to coordinate lobbying and/or fundraising activities by the Partnership.
 - Knowledge management/communications: Mesoamerica/George Jaksch (who is lead for this group) gave a brief overview of the idea behind this working group. The primary idea is to allow the initiatives to better identify needs and exchange ideas with regards to engaging the business sector.
- Under this item, the idea of getting better reporting from initiatives (and sharing this amongst the Global Partnership) was raised. The Secretariat will send out a request for this reporting in the coming weeks.
- Other Projects: With respect to the Business Reporting Project, the second draft has been completed and is



being discussed with the advisory group. Once the next draft is prepared, it will be shared with the wider Global Partnership for additional comments and next steps. Regarding the business case for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, members were previously canvassed for case studies, and upon completion of the first draft, this will be shared with the Partnership for comments and next steps. The Commodity Impact Indicators project was also briefly touched upon. Once the project is complete, results will be shared with the Global Partnership.

- *Upcoming meetings and events:* The World Forum on Natural Capital (Edinburgh, UK (November 2015)); regional meeting in South East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand (February 2016)); the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Honolulu, USA (September 2016), and COP13 which will include the next CBD Business Forum (Cancun, Mexico (December 2016). Further details will be provided as they become available. Initiatives are also encouraged to share information about other meetings with the wider membership.

Introducing the new Executive Committee:

- Brazil—Chair (1 year)
- European Union (2 years)
- Germany (1 year)
- India (1 year)
- Japan (1 year)
- Mesoamerica (2 years)
- South Africa (2 years)—in the case of South Africa, as there is no other African representation, it was decided that South Africa would retain its seat on the Executive Committee with the idea that another African member would take over at the next cycle)
- Canada will provide support to the Chair for 1 year

Highlights from the World Forum on Natural Capital

The second World Forum on Natural Capital (the first was held 2013) took place on 23-24 November 2015 in Edinburgh, UK. While similar in overall structure to the first World Forum, with a mix of discussion styles and plenary/breakout sessions, this event was much better attended (over 600 participants from some 45 countries) and the panels and subsequent discussions seemed better informed. Throughout the event there was a strong sense that this issue had advanced considerably in the intervening two years, and that, with the recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (together with expectations for the COP 21 Paris climate summit, Natural Capital was an idea whose time had come. This was coupled with the release of the draft Natural Capital Protocols and the commencement of wider consultations on this subject.



The Forum itself featured several plenary sessions with generally excellent keynote presentations or



discussions. Throughout the two days there were also four breakout streams (understanding and managing risk, innovation and tools, focus on finance and investment, and policy dialogues) each of which used a variety of styles to



engage the audience (traditional presentations and/or panel discussions, round-table workshops, direct audience driven Q&A sessions, and a variety of electronic tools). Discussion topics included defining the

importance of natural capital, a “mapping” of the tools available, the benefits and challenges of collaboration between different organizations in the area of natural capital, financing issues and practical case studies, and a debate on the ethics of natural capital, and more specifically the idea of “valuing” (monetizing) nature.

The full agenda and list of speakers can be found at: <http://naturalcapitalforum.com/>.

Information from partner organizations

In this section, we invite submissions from all global partners who are observers to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

Flora and Fauna International



The British American Tobacco Biodiversity Partnership (BATBP)

The BAT Biodiversity Partnership concluded at the end of 2015 after 15 years, achieving notable successes in pursuit of the Partnership’s purpose: to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes and the wider ecosystems on which they depend. The partners consisted of British American Tobacco (BAT) and three international biodiversity conservation NGOs: Fauna & Flora International (FFI); Earthwatch Institute; and the Tropical Biology Association (TBA). The main activities of The Partnership have been through implementation of projects addressing environmental and livelihoods issues within and beyond tobacco growing areas in several countries; building capacity of partners to address biodiversity threats; and to use the learning to leverage positive change in understanding and behaviour of stakeholders.



To these ends, the partners have helped embed corporate understanding and action to address BAT’s biodiversity impacts and dependencies through: the company’s biodiversity policy and statement; identification of significant wood fuel impacts from tobacco curing leading to ambitious public targets to reduce the use of wood from native forests to <1% by end 2015; developing and applying the Biodiversity



Risk and Opportunity Assessment (BROA) Tool (www.businessandbiodiversity.org/) as a rigorous landscape-scale risk management approach for agricultural supply-chain companies. Since 2010, BROA has been applied twice across all BAT’s growing operations and has been applied by companies in agricultural areas where tobacco is not grown. Action and Monitoring Plans have been implemented in 20 different countries that have applied BROA. Some of these action plans evolved into larger projects managed by the Partnership which addressed a variety of issues including

improved Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services management and enhanced livelihoods for small-holder farmers in Uganda and Brazil (Parana), and Integrated Watershed Management in Indonesia (Lombok). In addition, the Partners implemented projects addressing wider issues to agricultural landscapes including: Ecosystem Service assessment in India and valuation in four other countries; climate change adaptation planning in conservation sites and with small holders in six countries; landscape-level planning to enable improved biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service protection; and developing capacity in

biodiversity and ecosystem services across Africa. Having internalised several key lessons from The Partnership, BAT are implementing a new, locally driven programme of work addressing issues of sustainable agriculture and farmer livelihoods. In addition, the NGO partners will continue to deliver much of the work that has been initiated through this partnership.

The legacy of this Biodiversity Partnership was shared at an event in November 2015 in London, during which discussions focused around drivers of landscape degradation, the need for landscape level approaches and addressing farmer livelihoods and poverty. Key lessons from a panel debate included the need for shared goals to remain the cornerstone for NGO/Corporate Partnerships and the value of multi-corporate partnerships engaging with a number of NGOs around specific environmental and societal issues. A video of the event can be found here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2aIfh9cPpw&feature=player_embedded

The Natural Capital Coalition



Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides Consultation Launch

The draft Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides were launched on 23 November 2015 for consultation at the World Forum on Natural Capital. The purpose of the draft Protocol and Sector Guides (developed by the Natural Capital Coalition) is to help businesses systematically integrate their relationship with nature into their strategy and operations. The Protocol is intended to encourage those companies yet to fully realize the benefits of valuing natural capital to get started, and ultimately empower all businesses to understand their natural capital risks and opportunities so that they can help reduce environmental decline and start rebuilding the precious natural capital upon which we all depend.

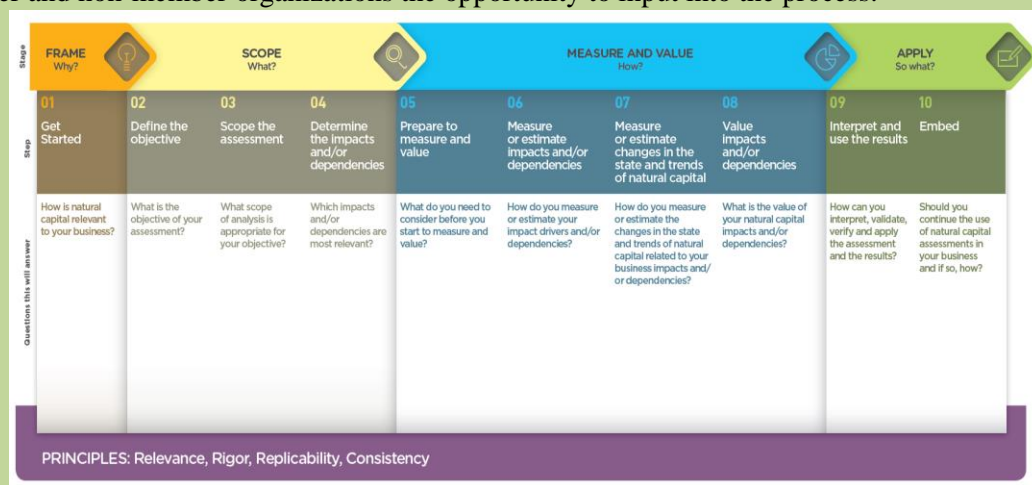
The Protocol and Sector Guides were developed through a collaborative process with more than 60 authors from the field of Natural Capital contributing to their development. Building on this process, the consultation, will give member and non-member organizations the opportunity to input into the process.

The Coalition recognized that in order to produce the best possible output, build consensus and gain market momentum it needed every opportunity to engage with the expected users of the Protocol, business, to inform its development.

Alongside the consultation a business engagement program has been set up to pilot the Protocol. Over 50 businesses are testing and

validating that the Protocol is useful in helping to improve business decision making and also to gain endorsement. The Natural Capital Coalition is also establishing an Expert Review Panel to consult on the draft of the Natural Capital Protocol and Sector Guides. Expert Review Panel members have been identified as leaders in their field and as people who have a lot to offer the consultation process.

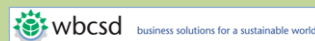
Online consultation will take place on a system called Collaborase. The system will enable reviewers to add comments and complete optional questionnaires to provide feedback on the Protocol and Sector Guides. The consultation is open to anyone who would like to contribute and will run until the end of February 2016. All feedback received during the consultation will be combined with feedback from the



piloting programme and expert review panel and considered during further development of the Protocol and Sector Guides ahead of their launch in July 2016.

For more information on how to take part in the consultation please visit:
www.naturalcapitalcoalition.org/consultation.

World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)



Launch of the Natural Infrastructure for Business Platform

The WBCSD launched the Natural Infrastructure for Business platform earlier this month. This online platform strengthens the business case for investing in natural infrastructure demonstrating cost-efficient solutions with compelling co-benefits for society and environment. It also includes case studies from different industries leveraging various ecosystem services and tools to guide business decision-making, such as a cost-benefit analysis tool. It was developed in collaboration with CH2M, The Nature Conservancy, program Co-Chairs Dow and Shell, as well as a group of more than 30 companies. Check out the site here: www.naturalinfrastructureforbusiness.org/.

Updates from Initiatives

We invite submissions from all members and those developing national or regional initiatives

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)



Forum focuses on business and biodiversity in the Philippines

Some 50 representatives of the business sector in the Philippines gathered in Subic, Zambales on 27 November 2015 to learn more about biodiversity and understand the role of business in biodiversity conservation. Organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Center for Philippine Biodiversity Journalism (CPBJ), the Business and Biodiversity Round Table Discussion aimed to convince the business sector to participate in the conservation of the rich yet threatened biodiversity of the Philippines and the ASEAN region.



“Humanity is facing its greatest challenge – biodiversity loss – which threatens our very existence. If we continue to lose our biodiversity and ecosystems, we will lose the source of food, air, water and materials for our medicine, industries and livelihood. Business will lose their source of raw materials,” emphasized ACB Executive Director Roberto Oliva. He explained that the business sector is both the problem and the solution to biodiversity loss. Irresponsible practices of some companies contribute to biodiversity loss. Business involvement is one of the solutions to biodiversity loss because the business sector has more resources that can be used for conservation compared to governments.

CPBJ Founding Chair Jun Bandayrel said the round table discussion was the first in a series of media and business fora that will promote public awareness on the values of biodiversity and the actions they can take to conserve it. Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim, Director of the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources' Biodiversity Management Bureau, presented an overview of the status and challenges of biodiversity in the Philippines.



Rolando Inciong, Director for Communication and Public Affairs of ACB, gave a presentation on why businesses should be engaged in biodiversity conservation. “There is an increasing demand for environment-friendly products and services. If a business is active in conservation, most likely its public image will be enhanced. This could translate to more buyers and profits. Conserving biodiversity is a sound business investment and ensures the sustainable supply of raw materials,” explained Inciong.

CPBJ's Programme Manager, Paolo Pagaduan, discussed the challenges of communicating biodiversity while explaining the need to involve the business sector in the cause. The round table discussion served as an opportunity to demystify biodiversity and share good company practices on biodiversity conservation. The event is in line with the Declaration of Support in creating a business-biodiversity network signed during the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in India in 2012. The Declaration aims to encourage businesses to consider biodiversity and ecosystem services in their corporate strategies, policies and operations. The event supports the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity under the auspices of the CBD Secretariat and serves as lead-in to the forthcoming ASEAN Business and Biodiversity Forum, which will be part of the Second ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity, scheduled for February 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the end of the round table discussion, participants signed the Statement of Business Support to Biodiversity, which signifies their commitment to help in conserving the ASEAN region's biodiversity. The text of the Statement of Business Support to Biodiversity is as follows:

“We, members of the business sector in the ASEAN region, are committing to work together in promoting biodiversity conservation.

We recognize that natural capital – species, ecosystems, and other biological resources – are equally important as our financial capital.

We aim to contribute toward the preservation of the region's natural resources, in which more than 600 million people depend on.

We pledge to promote the sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits arising from our biological resources—the same source of our raw materials that could make or break our own enterprise.

We are aware the biodiversity is everyone's business, and we will act to encourage others to join our ranks. Business and Biodiversity Round Table Discussion, 27 November 2015, Subic, Philippines”

ASEAN Business & Biodiversity Workshop

In February 2016 business leaders, civil society, academia and governments from across ASEAN will assemble in Bangkok to discuss the significance of biodiversity loss to businesses in the region, and propose ways forward in both managing the growing risks, and in identifying the opportunities that new approaches will offer forward thinking businesses. Change is both essential and inevitable – businesses can either be a proactive part of the solution, or can wait for change to be imposed.

For these changes to be “managed”, is complex and requires integrated thinking from governments, civil society, academia and businesses if a workable solution is to be found. For this reason, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and Birdlife International, is organizing a two-day workshop on Business and Biodiversity as part of the larger ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity to be held 15-19 February 2016 in Bangkok and hosted by the Royal Government of Thailand, Issues to be covered during the workshop include: Environmental and financial policy in ASEAN regarding biodiversity; Biodiversity and supply chains; sector-based discussions on forestry and

agriculture, tourism, fisheries and extractives; the importance of natural capital; and, ways of moving forward through partnerships and actions.

The European Union



Results of the Second Year of the EU B@B Platform and Next Steps

As the second year of the B@B Platform is coming to an end, it is time to take stock of what the platform has achieved up to now and prepare the next steps for year 3 of the Platform.

The second Annual Conference of the EU B@B Platform took place on 27 October 2015 in Brussels. With over 100



participants, the conference once again presented a formidable opportunity to learn about the most recent breakthroughs in the area of business and biodiversity and to network with members of the Platform. The EU B@B Platform is thankful to all the speakers who enriched the debate with their insights on business and biodiversity activities and to the wider audience who attended the conference. The Conference Summary and the presentations of the different sessions are



available online at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/assets/pdf/b-at-be-conference-summary-05112015.pdf> and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/the-platform/2015-annual-conference_en.htm.

Germany



German Annual Business Dialogue Forum 2016 on Biological Diversity (15 March 2016, Berlin)

"Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020" ("Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020"), initiated by the Federal Environment Ministry, was set up in spring 2013 as a dialogue and action platform for business federations, nature conservancy organizations and authorities in order to encourage exchange, cooperation and tangible action. This round table approach turned out to be very valuable. 'Biodiversity in Good Company' is one of the partners and represents this platform in the CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. The annual dialogue forum 2016 will take place on 15 March 2016 in Berlin. The 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative is supporting the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in organizing the event. The German event website can be found at: www.ubi2020-dialogforum.de

Basic knowledge for companies – new information modules

What do companies have to do with biodiversity and how should they get involved? "Basic knowledge: companies and biodiversity" is a series of short, cross-industry information modules for companies interested in finding out more on this topic. The modules offer guidance, suggestions and advice, which are helpful not only for large businesses, but also for smaller ones. Now, two further publications have been released: one on credible communication on biodiversity and avoiding greenwashing and one on opportunities for involving employees. The German versions can be found here www.business-and-biodiversity.de/aktuelles/news/detail/News/infoserie-mit-einstiegswissen-fuer-unternehmen/. English editions, slightly adapted for international use, will be available in 2016: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/basic-knowledge-for-companies-information-modules/

New German brochure: What water sector companies can do to protect biodiversity

Every sector has specific challenges and possibilities for action. Mainstreaming biodiversity means providing tailor-made information for business sectors or value chains. One ideal way of doing so is by creating collaborations with important stakeholders in the sector. This is what 'Biodiversity in Good Company' did in a project funded by the German Ministry for the Environment. Together with six partners from business, technical-scientific associations and nature conservation we released a brochure addressing water suppliers and wastewater treatment companies as important "ambassadors" for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Presenting some 20 best practice examples, the brochure highlights five fields of action: company sites as valuable habitats, drinking water production sites as special areas, cooperation with agriculture, renaturation of water bodies and community involvement through the support/sponsoring of projects. The brochure is only available in German: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/aktuelles/news/neue-broschuere-die-wasserwirtschaft-als-botschafter-fuer-biologische-vielfalt/

Company news

- Biodiversity in HiPP's Sustainability Report 2015: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/biological-diversity-in-hipps-sustainability-report-2015/
- Quarry Life Award 2016: HeidelbergCement launches third edition of the international research competition: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/quarry-life-award-2016-heidelbergcement-launches-3rd-edition-of-the-international-research-competition/
- Forestry finds fertile soil in Uruguay: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/newsarchive/news/forestry-finds-fertile-soil-in-uruguay/

ISO Management System and Biodiversity

This guideline is designed to address companies of all sizes and commercial sectors that employ a management system. Designed to be process-orientated, the guideline provides information on aims, measures and key statistics relevant to (almost) all business sectors. The guideline deals with both the direct and indirect impact of commercial activities and focuses on avoiding and reducing negative effects on biodiversity as well as the ways of reinforcing positive action within commercial organisations. The "Guidance - The ISO management system and the protection of biological diversity" is available at: www.business-biodiversity.eu/global/download/%7BKEHFLPSFXE-1232015212540-IQBNKKXTOP%7D.pdf.

Ghana



2015 Quarry Life Programmes: Overview of Work Carried Out During Implementation Year

Following the success chalked by Ghacem Limited in the maiden edition of the Quarry Life Award in



2012, preparations for the third edition took off with high expectations. Key outreach activities included interactions with key universities and departments, including the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, the Institute of



Environmental and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (which included outreach activities with the departments of Theoretical and Applied Biology, the University of Mines and Technology, and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (last year's first prize winner, Paul Nsiah, is a lecturer at the latter school), the University of Cape Coast, and the Botany Department& Entomology Department and the Geology Department at the University of Ghana.

In addition, the Quarry Life Programme has held Quarry Open Days, where students can visit the quarries to get a first-hand appreciation of issues to be selected for their research. Students from the environmental science department of the University of Cape Coast were the first to kick-start the quarry open day visit. The rationale was to collect samples to be tested and ascertain the soil type. The result, according to the students, would help them identify the kind of research topic to select.

India



Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CII-CESD), in partnership with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), organised a Business Forum on Responsible Forest Management for Sustainable Growth on 17 November 2015 in New Delhi. The Forum was comprised of an inaugural plenary, followed by sessions on market access and business linkages for green forest produce, responsible forestry in furniture and construction industry, and sustainability in pulp, paper, printing and packaging. Speaking as the Business Forum Chief Guest, Dr. S S Negi, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, emphasised the importance of forests as a carbon sink and for livelihoods. Forest land, currently covering about 23 per cent of India's geographical area, is essential to meet country's target for climate change mitigation under Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) by 2030. By way of business representation, Ms. Anushree Shukla, Forestry Manager, IKEA, presented the case of IKEA being forest positive with FSC. Mr. Himanshu Goswami, Business Manager, Eximcorp India Pvt. Ltd. shared the benefits and challenges of trade of FSC-certified forest products in the construction market. Responsible sourcing strategies of forest produce by ITC were presented by Mr. C Vinayagam, Deputy General Manager – Product Development, ITC Limited.



CII-ITC Sustainability Awards

In mid-December 2015, CII-ITC Sustainability Awards celebrated a decade of recognising sustainable businesses in India. Uniquely based on EFQM Excellence Framework, the Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate excellence in sustainable business. Currently biodiversity is covered as one of the aspects in the Awards framework. From 2016 onwards Indian companies will be for the first time recognised for business excellence in biodiversity management. The domain excellence award in biodiversity will be part of the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards, with inputs being given by the IBBI Working Group on Biodiversity Awards.

The Netherlands



Launch of the English version of Business and Biodiversity: Insights from the Community of Practice

Any company wishing to 'make its business greener' faces a host of questions that need to be addressed. The digital publication, *Business and Biodiversity: Insights from the Community of Practice*, aims to answer some of these questions. Written in clear language, it is a publication from practice for practice, which discusses biodiversity and the natural environment in relation to business activities from the perspective of the entrepreneur. This makes it an invaluable resource for any company wishing to conduct

business in a sustainable way or planning to focus its ambitions on green business. The knowledge and the narratives shared in this publication stem from the Community of Practice Business & Biodiversity. Its meetings, held between 2011 and 2013, brought together players from a variety of sectors, all of whom were keen to learn from one another and all of whom realised that green business calls for new coalitions and cooperative associations that transcend the boundaries of individual sectors. The new forms of cooperation that followed became an important source of inspiration for further innovation, by opening up prospects for new markets, generating new knowledge about the role of biodiversity in the production chain and enriching already existing business strategies. This cooperation has also spawned a series of spin-offs, including a Green Deal focused on the promotion of green roofs and a Community of Practice in the financial sector. The publication is available at: www.duurzaamdoor.nl/bedrijven-en-biodiversiteit.



Peru



Information platform for the Peruvian Initiative “Business and Biodiversity”

In cooperation with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), an information platform for the Peruvian Initiative has started to be implemented. The information platform seeks to cooperate with businesses in their knowledge, valuation and action process regarding their reliance on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The conceptual design of the platform will include the participation of different stakeholders that produce and manage information about biodiversity and ecosystem services, thus making it possible to analyze the availability and demand of this information and making it more relevant for business decision-makers. Key stakeholders in the platform will include businesses, the public sector and the academic community. For further information, please visit: www.minam.gob.pe/bye/, or contact Ms. María Luisa del Río (mldelrio@minam.gob.pe), or Ms. Patricia Juárez (pjuarez@minam.gob.pe).

Portugal



Partnership for Biodiversity Protection in Viticulture in Europe

The European Union is a leading producer of wine (DG AGRI). Spain, Portugal and Turkey belong to the top ten countries in Europe with the largest vineyards – organic as well as conventional ones. Biodiversity assessment in agriculture is still quite innovative compared to other agro-environmental indicators such as climate change, nutrient balances etc. The project focuses on organic vine growers - farmers producing grapes in the vineyards - with a special focus on viticulture but taking sultana producers also into account. Organic vine growers have a motivation to improve their biodiversity performance because well-functioning ecosystems and a high diversity in earth and between vine rows are necessary for healthy grapes and a good quality. But vine growers do not carry out systematic analysis of their impacts on biodiversity on their whole farm and, as they are in general small farms run only by their owners, they do not have time to participate in time-intensive and wide-ranging training courses.

The partnership consists of nature conservation organizations and farmers/wine growers associations in Germany, Spain and Portugal as well as of an organic agriculture company in Turkey. Project aims include an exchange of experiences of partner organizations on the issue of vine growing and biodiversity, in order to educate each other and develop information materials and specific biodiversity training modules. Vine growers will be schooled with the help of these materials on basic biodiversity knowledge and trained with the modules in the systematic analyses of their impacts on biodiversity. They will also receive individual training performed directly on the farm so they can implement

recommendations for improvements directly into their daily work. With the results and experiences a Biodiversity Program (a roadmap for biodiversity improvements at farm level) will be developed to help vine growers who have not participated in the training to enhance their biodiversity performance as well. Due to this approach, time and expenditure for further outreach activities for vine growers is reduced, and the vine growers obtain the knowledge to adapt production methods and can thereby specify their professional education and increase competitiveness. Training of local NGOs ensures that vine growers will be schooled and new co-operations/training activities will be initiated and continued even after the funding period. The project also supports the objectives of EU policy on biodiversity and contributes to achieve the objective of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Spain



The year 2015 was a turning point for the Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative (SBBI). The active involvement of businesses and partners has been key; allowing for the launch of three workstreams whereby different stakeholders have the opportunity to work closely to improve biodiversity business management. These include:

- *Habitat banking workstream*: Due to the interest of the Spanish government to hear the views of all parties, the SBBI took up the challenge and brought to the government a document looking at the business position on the future regulation of habitat banking in Spain
- *Ecological Restoration workstream*: This second workstream developed a Practical Guide to Eco-Restoration that could be used as a reference for all stakeholders whose decisions affect restoration activities associated with transport infrastructure, energy, urban services and mining projects. Available in late 2016, the guide will be the result of discussions and consensus achieved between business, government and restoration experts
- *Transport and distribution of electricity infrastructures workstream*: In recent months, and after several meetings, three of the main Spanish electrical companies have progressed in the design of a joint project to improve and add value to biodiversity management in areas affected by transport and the distribution of electricity infrastructures. They are exploring how to apply innovative methodologies for making available environmental information of these areas. This information will allow for the improvement of their environmental management, the prevention of forest fires and the optimization of the inspection and maintenance of lines.

Finally, the end of 2015 sees four new member companies (BALEÀRIA, OHL, MAPFRE and UNILEVER) in the Initiative, which opens great opportunities to work on biodiversity in such key sectors as sea transport, financial and food and beverage industry.

Sri Lanka



Biodiversity Sri Lanka engaged in the development and pilot testing of a ranking scheme for biodiversity projects undertaken by the private sector

A scoping study undertaken by Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) in 2014 revealed that the private sector is increasingly taking an active role in environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation issues both within and outside of its core business. Most initiatives in this area are either carried out internally by companies themselves, with the assistance of specialized non-governmental organizations, or through direct links with state institutions. Significant advancements have been made and some best practices and outstanding projects have been recognized by recent award schemes. Most of these projects are designed on the assumption that they will lead to conservation of key biological resources. At the Second Meeting of Members and CEO Forum held on 6 October 2015, Biodiversity Sri Lanka introduced a draft Project

Ranking Scheme, for the purpose of assessing if private sector led biodiversity projects have incorporated well-defined scientific approaches and devised operational procedures including adequate stakeholder involvement, with the final aim of recognizing the importance of these projects in addressing national biodiversity conservation priorities. Renowned biodiversity expert, Professor Sarath W Kotagama is leading the team of technical experts that is developing this ranking scheme. As the next step in the process, the team of experts met with interested companies willing to pilot test the Ranking Scheme on at least 3-4 completed or on-going projects which are at an advanced stage of implementation. These projects will be subjected to ranking in order that any gaps and areas in the scheme where further refinement would be necessary, could be determined. This important initiative – a first for Sri Lanka, will pave the way for the biodiversity projects and programmes being undertaken by the private sector to be given due recognition in the national conservation agenda.
