

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

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In this edition, we are pleased to present the new governance structure for the Global Partnership. This document, which is briefly outlined here, should go a long way towards strengthening the Partnership and clarifying many of the questions that new (and current) members have about its purpose and structure. The document will be made available on-line and will be sent shortly to the various initiatives. In addition, we have a short update you on the upcoming Global Partnership meeting to be held in October and we have a number of contributions from initiatives around the world.

All the best for the summer, and we shall return in a couple of months with our next edition...

In this edition:

- Overview of the Governance Structure
- Update on the preparation of the third meeting of the Global Partnership
- Updates from National/Regional Initiatives
(ASEAN, Central America, France, India, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the UK)

Governance Structure for the Global Partnership

On June 3, 2013, the draft *Governance Structure for the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity* document was completed. This document is based upon the decisions emanating from COP 10 and COP 11, background materials prepared by the CBD Secretariat describing the basic outlines of the Partnership and its component national and regional initiatives, and extensive consultations with representative members of the Global Partnership including the CBD Secretariat and business and biodiversity initiatives from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Japan, Netherlands and South Africa.

The need for this document arose out of the 2012 Hyderabad, India, meetings. It was felt that with the fast paced growth of the Partnership a document was needed to provide structure and direction to existing members and to inform prospective members how the Partnership operated. It was decided this document would be ready and in place for the next Partnership meeting in 2013. The document outlines the overall structure of the Global Partnership (particularly as new members join and the criterion become more concrete) and how countries and regions can be represented in this grouping. Some key elements of the document include:

- Background: reason behind the Partnership and the decisions supporting it.
- Vision: global vision for business and biodiversity initiatives.
- Mission: benefit business and biodiversity initiatives.
- Goals: key long term goals of the Partnership.
- Membership: criteria for membership, roles and responsibilities of members, etc.
- Representation in the Membership: representation based on country and initiative.
- Organizational Structure: the organizing principles of the Partnership, including working groups and guidelines.
- Executive Committee: roles and responsibilities.

One of the key and most contentious issues discussed amongst the group was that of membership: who can join the partnership and how a country/region is represented in the partnership. This direction is not

only important for the function of the partnership, but within countries that have multiple business and biodiversity initiatives.

The document does not mandate or provide instructions on how the individual business initiatives are to operate, but the requirements for the initiatives to be a member of the Partnership and how the initiatives will interact within the partnership. It provides direction on how the Partnership will be managed by its members and how decisions are to be made.

During the Global Partnership meeting in Montreal on the afternoon of October 3, the document will be discussed with the members. It is not the intent to reopen the document for major revisions but to examine any critical modifications that will be necessary for the Partnership to function for the upcoming year. The document is a “living document” in that it will be modified and improved as the partnership matures.

Preparation of the third meeting of the Global Partnership

The speakers list for the Montreal meeting is shaping up very nicely. Many of the representatives of the initiatives should have received invitations to act as speakers/facilitators. The latest version of the agenda is included in this email as is the registration form. If you have not already done so, please fill in and return one form per person attending from your organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Reg Melanson (reg.melanson@businessbiodiversity.ca) or David Steuerman (david.steuerman@cbd.int).

Updates from initiatives

(We invite submissions for the next newsletter from all members and those developing national initiatives)

ASEAN



One thousand nine hundred trees will be planted at the sprawling Tagaytay Highlands Leisure Resort in Cavite, Philippines this year in an effort to promote a greener environment. The tree growing activity, dubbed “One Tree at a Time”, was launched on May 25 to observe the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). The multi-sector event was part of the business sector’s involvement in conservation through the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity and the Green Wave, both launched by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and promoted by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). The event was organized by the Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club, Inc., Belle Corporation, and Highlands Prime, Inc. and supported by ACB and GIZ, the development cooperation agency of Germany.



The annual “One Tree at a Time” tree growing activity of Tagaytay Highlands started in 2010 when ACB partnered with the leisure destination for its first tree growing event, together with representatives from the business sector. Atty. Roberto V. Oliva, executive director of ACB, said the Centre is delighted to have found a biodiversity champion in the business sector. “Tagaytay Highlands’ efforts are in line with ACB’s goal of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the various sectors. The business sector has relevant biodiversity-related knowledge, expertise, and resources needed to conserve biological resources. It is, in fact, an integral part



of the solution to biodiversity loss.” In the ASEAN region, ACB is promoting SCBD’s Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity to encourage the business sector to invest in programmes that will promote the link between business and biodiversity through corporate social responsibility initiatives, direct investments in biodiversity programmes, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in company policies, operations, products and services. The tree growing activity was highlighted by the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation among ACB, Highlands Prime, Inc. and Belle Corporation for joint activities during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

Central America



In 2009, the REWE Group (a supermarket chain); Chiquita Brands Int. (supplier of bananas for REWE); CORBANA (Costa Rican banana marketer) and the GIZ, formed a public-private partnership to develop a pilot project with common objectives aimed at protecting wetland areas, mountain forests and critical watersheds in Talamanca in Costa Rica and Bocas del Toro in Panama. One of the important outcomes of this initiative has been the integration and participation of public and private sectors in a regional management platform for conservation, called Mesoamerica Biodiversity Partnership (BPM). BPM is encouraging the actions of producers, entrepreneurs, governments, organizations, workers, scientists and aid agencies, in order for all to share common goals for the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable productive development and poverty reduction.

BPM was legally constituted in Costa Rica as a regional organization to help promote biodiversity conservation in business, beyond philanthropy. BPM is integrated into the framework of policies, strategies, programs and projects with the Central American Integration System (SICA) involving eight countries and Mexico.

On 29-30 April, the "Seminar on Business and Biodiversity" was held at the Radisson Hotel in San Jose, Costa Rica. The event was co-hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and BPM. The event was attended by officials of the Secretariat of the CBD, companies and partner organizations in the BPM, and prominent organizations from Germany, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Switzerland and Panama, to share experiences, build alliances and strengthen commercial ties, according to the objectives of the BPM. The focus of the Seminar on Business and Biodiversity was to meet the following objectives: Familiarization with the Aichi Targets and the Nagoya Protocol; generation of knowledge and sharing of case studies; and exploring mutual benefits for companies interested in participating in the BPM and existing members through the creation of a Business Roundtable. The seminar was premised on the need to connect between the participants, hence there was a networking space for attendees and emphasis on the importance of "linkages" particularly with respect to public-private partnerships. The seminar was attended by 55 people from the private and public sector.



France



Orée and the HQE association have developed a working group to help the building trade to integrate biodiversity into their working plans. Since 1996, the non-profit organization HQE has helped to develop reference frameworks on the challenges of sustainable construction and urban planning. This state approved private institution proposes a process “HQE performance” which is supposed to take account of biodiversity. This challenge has prompted HQE to work with Orée to manage the creation of this framework with many stakeholders from the building trade. The expertise on biodiversity-economy

related matters brought by Orée and its members will this issue to be included in the strategies of stakeholders when conducting life cycle assessments of the new building projects. The results of this working group are expected within the year.

India



A Roundtable on Business and Biodiversity was organized by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) on 18th April, 2013 in the Civil Services Officers Institute, New Delhi. Industry associations and relevant national and international organizations participated in the discussions, including the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association (ADMA), WWF-India, the Wildlife Trust of India, Research and Information System, Wetlands International, UNDP, GIZ, the World Bank and IUCN. The Roundtable allowed participants to share their experiences in integrating biodiversity concerns into business and to look for ways to collaborate and explore the possibility of forming a joint national initiative that could then be integrated into the larger Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity. Even though the participants had different perspectives on the matter, there was widespread support for looking at developing an Indian national initiative that could function with the Global Partnership, particularly in the context of India's CoP Presidency. Mr. Hem Pande (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests) recalled CoP decisions X/21 and XI/7 calling upon business to undertake actions towards biodiversity conservation. Concluding the meeting, he proposed that a follow-up meeting to this Roundtable may be organized in about three months to continue this dialogue, for which he invited any one of the participant organizations to take the initiative.

South Africa



- The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Nedbank Limited, Hatch Goba, De Beers, Transnet, Pam Golding Properties and Pick n Pay, is proud to announce the launch of the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN). The aim of the Network is to assist businesses from various sectors to integrate and mainstream biodiversity issues into their strategies and operations. It is designed to be an open and inclusive association of likeminded organisations that have recognised the need to raise awareness of, and stimulate conversation about, biodiversity issues amongst the business community. “In response to this new business imperative, the EWT has led the establishment of the NBBN in alignment with government's objective to build strategic partnerships in order to achieve an environmentally friendly developmental path. The EWT will be spearheading the activities of the NBBN in alignment with the model of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in collaboration with the founding and supporting partners, as well as the other members of the Network as they join in months to come. The Network will provide a national platform to stimulate a strategic discussion about biodiversity and business and the development of a national agenda in this context. Amongst other things, the network will facilitate the development and provision of relevant information, tools, resources, benchmarks, pilot-studies and strategic support to businesses looking



to mainstream biodiversity issues. In order to do so, the Network will organise various events, forums, training sessions and an annual conference. Any company can become a member or partner of the Network at any time,” commented Dr Marie Parramon-Gurney, the EWT’s Head of Conservation and Business.

- The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa on 22 May 2013 (the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)), launched the *Mining and Biodiversity Guideline: Mainstreaming biodiversity into the mining sector*, in Kirstenbosch, Cape Town. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) also handed over the *Life: State of South Africa’s Biodiversity Report* to the Minister. The guideline provides direction on how to avoid, minimise or remedy mining impacts as part of a thorough environmental impact assessment and robust environmental management programme. As such, the guideline establishes a four step mitigation hierarchy aimed at encouraging proactive planning that would firstly avoid disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity as a first approach. Secondly, in cases where loss of biodiversity cannot be avoided, the mitigation hierarchy encourages finding alternative methods in mining that would minimise the impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Thirdly, the mitigation hierarchy makes reference to the importance of rehabilitating those areas where biodiversity loss were unavoidable and could not be minimised and finally, the mitigation hierarchy encourages biodiversity offsets as a last resort. Biodiversity offsets are aimed at compensating for the residual negative effects on biodiversity after every effort has been made to minimise and then rehabilitate impacts.



Spain

The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative was launched by the Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Food and Environment and 15 large Spanish companies, seven of them from IBEX35, in Madrid on 22 May 2013 (the International Day for Biological Diversity). Fundación Biodiversidad, a public foundation connected to Spain’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, whose mission is to preserve natural heritage and promote biodiversity conservation, is the principal actor of the Initiative.

The so-called “Spanish Biodiversity Pact”, which aligns itself with the goals of the CBD, intends to explore ways to enhance private sector collaboration and foster public-private partnerships. It aims to achieve this by supporting the attainment of three objectives:

- Integrating conservation of natural capital into business policies and management systems
- Increasing added value from contributions of large companies to nature conservation
- Channeling private funding to biodiversity conservation.

By signing the pact signatory companies commit themselves to:

- I. Evaluate the impact of their business activities on biodiversity and natural capital
- II. Integrate biodiversity protection into their management policies and manuals
- III. Designate an interlocutor within the company to assess progress in achieving the commitments of this Pact
- IV. Set realistic and measurable goals in biodiversity conservation that will be monitored, reviewed and reported on every two or three years
- V. Publish activities and achievements in biodiversity conservation in the company’s annual report

- VI. Inform suppliers about the company's biodiversity targets and consequently integrate them step by step
- VII. Explore the potential for cooperation in biodiversity conservation with scientific institutions, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and/or government institutions in order to deepen the dialogue and continuously improve business and environmental management.

The Initiative relies on the support, willingness and expertise of four partners: Club de Excelencia en Sostenibilidad, one of CSR Europe's national partners; Forética, a non-profit multi-stakeholder organization working on promoting ethical and socially responsible policies; Fundación Global Nature, a private national organization that focuses on conservation, protection and management of the environment; and Biodiversity in Good Company, the German Initiative.

(<http://www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es/empresaybiodiversidad/>)

Sri Lanka



Since the end of internal strife in 2009, Sri Lanka has shown a strong growth rate of over 8% in both 2010 and 2011, owing largely to private-sector demand. The combination of sustaining high economic growth rates and improving the lives of the poor or marginalized communities whilst not compromising on environmental conservation and restoration is one of the biggest challenges facing the country. As an island nation, Sri Lanka boasts of a unique biodiversity. Areas that have remained relatively untouched and allowed to thrive during the years of conflict have now become prime targets for rapid development. This has the potential to disturb finely balanced ecosystems leading to irreversible damage. Additionally, with Sri Lanka on the verge of a tourism boom there has been a parallel growth trajectory in ecological parks and sites thus presenting conservationists and the hospitality industry with a fine tightrope to tread between exploitation and conservation.

One response to this issue has been the setting up of a Business & Biodiversity Platform at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce as a one stop shop where the private sector can access information and know how on biodiversity and other conservation issues, both as part of their core business and also as part of their ongoing sustainability/CSR activities. This platform has been created conforming to a decision made at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) 10 held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 to further integrate the business sector in biodiversity conservation. At its initial stages, the Platform is supported by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, IUCN and Dilmah Conservation. The overall mandate of this national initiative is to *encourage dialogue amongst stakeholders and to help raise awareness of biodiversity and sustainability issues amongst the business community*. By assisting businesses to in-build environmental sustainability into their core work programmes, not only will the Platform guide them towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals but also ensure that these all important issues are addressed systematically and scientifically whilst keeping to national priorities and proven scientific methodologies.

- **Knowledge Hub:** The platform will facilitate the sharing of knowledge on biodiversity issues by instilling leadership within the private sector to own this issue and to take it forward. Through this process, stakeholders will promote best practices and dialogue with state and civil society partners on biodiversity conservation issues, thus bringing together policy makers, researchers, practitioners and business leaders to work through a range of activities and share ideas to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information and methods on biodiversity conservation.
- **Network, Network, Network:** By establishing vital links between the private sector and existing and emerging networks and initiatives both locally and internationally, Sri Lankan businesses will gain from being able to easily find solutions that will assist them in adjusting their activities to ensure fair income and sustainable growth, whilst providing benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems.

- ***Policy development & enhancement:*** Given that the platform is membership driven, members will be constantly engaged in roundtable discussions on issues of interest, workshops on best practices and lessons learnt etc. They will also be privy to case studies of successful biodiversity conservation initiatives which will inspire them to nominate and upscale their own campaigns for awards schemes, bench marking and certification. These accreditations will serve to steer biodiversity and conservation issues to the forefront of public policy development in Sri Lanka. Members will also have access to a project bank consisting of current and future projects involving biodiversity solutions for business.

(<http://business-biodiversity.lk/>)

UK



- In May the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published its Payments for Ecosystem Services action plan and best practice guide, which helps identify practical ways to deliver new and additional investment in the natural environment as well as seeking better targeting and value for money of existing funding streams. Professor Sir John Lawton has endorsed the Guide and sets out a clear challenge in his Foreword: “Increasingly, paying for ecosystem services will be another powerful reason for society to look after the natural world, and to stop taking for granted the benefits we derive from it.” <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/payments-for-ecosystem-services-pes-best-practice-guide>
- In June, DEFRA also published updated Environmental Reporting Guidelines, to support businesses in Greenhouse Gas and voluntary environmental reporting, which now contains an introductory chapter on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206392/pb13944-env-reporting-guidance.pdf