

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

Information Newsletter – Volume I, Issue III – September 2013

Happy fall everyone, we hope that you managed to take some time to enjoy the summer (or winter for those of you south of the equator). As of this writing, we are two weeks away from the third Meeting of the Global Partnership. The agenda has shaped up nicely and a good number of people have registered for the meeting. Together with this newsletter, we are also sending the governance document for the Global Partnership, which we will be discussing at the closed session for initiatives on 3 October. We hope that you will find it useful.

We look forward to seeing you in Montreal...

In this edition:

- Final update on preparations for the third Global Partnership meeting
- Updates from national/regional Initiatives (Australia, Chile, European Union, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka)

Preparation of the Third Global Partnership meeting

All initiatives should last week have received the latest agenda and registration information. If you are coming to Montreal, and have yet to do so, please be sure to fill in and return one form per person attending from your organization and make sure that you have booked a room at the hotel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either David Steuerman (david.steuerman@cbd.int) or Reg Melanson (reg.melanson@businessbiodiversity.ca).

Hotel info as on the registration form

Rooms are reserved for the evenings of 1-2 October at the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel
555 McMillan Avenue, Dorval, Québec, H9P 1B7, Canada, Phone: 1-514-631-2411,
Web: www.Sheratonmontrealairport.com

A special conference rate of \$159.00/night for a Standard King single or double room has been arranged. Reservations may be made by calling 1-514-631-2411 and referencing the Third Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity or by Web at www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1305288943&key=36E27

If you any problems please let David Steuerman or Reg Melanson know as soon as possible. If you require assistance in booking a room, we can help you but you must supply us with a credit card number and the duration of your stay.

Please see below the agenda for the closed session for initiatives on 3 October:

***Third Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity
Closed Session, 3 October 2013***

- 13:30 Welcome: Reg Melanson, Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council (CBBC)
- 13:35 Introductory Remarks: David Steuerman, SCBD
- 13:40 Approval of Agenda / New Business
- 13:45 Introductions
- Initiatives will be restricted to a maximum of **1 Minute** for their introduction. Initiatives are requested supply a one page brief on their organization prior to the meeting so attendees will be versed on the initiative prior to the meeting.
 - ASEAN
 - Australia
 - Brazil
 - Central America
 - Chile
 - China
 - EU
 - France
 - Germany
 - India
 - Japan
 - Republic of Korea
 - Namibia
 - Netherlands
 - New Zealand
 - Peru
 - Rwanda
 - South Africa
 - Spain
 - Sri Lanka
 - Switzerland
 - Thailand
 - UK
 - Others (SCBD)
- 14:10 Global Partnership Governance Document: Reg Melanson, CBBC
- A short presentation followed by discussion
 - The session aims to provide a summary of why and how the document came into being and to facilitate any minor tweaking that may be necessary for the short term. The document should be revisited in 2014 with needed minor revisions made, then re-evaluated/updated in 2015.
- 14:30 Structure and Members of the Executive Committee
- The governance document identifies the structure and members of an executive committee. The inaugural committee needs to be established.
- 15:00 Future Directions of the Global Partnership
- Expanding the Partnership
 - Communications/Marketing
 - Web-presence
 - CBD business website / Wikipedia presence
 - Newsletters
 - Other
 - Partnerships
 - Other
- 15:30 Potential Joint Activities and Opportunities for the Members of the Global Partnership
- Global Awards
 - Criteria for Consultants
 - Tools
 - Other
- 16:00 Upcoming Events
- SCBD
 - Initiatives
- 16:15 Other Business
- 16:30 Next Steps
- Arising from 2-3 October Global Partnership Open Meeting
 - COP 12
 - Other
- 16:45 Closing
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Updates from Initiatives

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

Australia

New Business & Biodiversity Initiative forming in Australia

Representatives from Australian business, State and Commonwealth government and non-government organisations are working to establish an Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (ABBI), under the auspices of the Global Partnership. At a recent meeting in Sydney, Terms of Reference were finalised and agreed, allowing ABBI to begin recruitment of members. Progress is being made on the development of a work plan, which will incorporate several key thematic areas, including: (i) Building a shared understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem services issues; (ii) Growing knowledge; (iii) Engagement and outreach; and, (iv) Building a solid governance framework to manage the focus and direction of the Initiative into the future. The work plan will be discussed at the next ABBI meeting in November, with the intent of finalising it for implementation in 2014.

Chile

A business and biodiversity workshop (Seminario Negocios y Biodiversidad) was held 18 July in Santiago with roughly 100 people in attendance (a mix of businesses, NGOs, academia and government). The seminar began with opening statements from Fundacion Chile (the organizers), the Minister of Environment and the CBD Executive Secretary. This was complimented by presentations from the academic sector (Catholic University of Chile) who explained the importance of acting sustainably in the marine environment (Chile being highly dependent on its coastal resources), the experience in Brazil (a presentation by Fundación Boticário), the importance of sustainability to business in more general terms (AccionRSE which is the Chilean chapter of the WBCSD) and a presentation by Patagonia (a clothing company) on the importance of sustainability in a specific sector. The afternoon session opened with a presentation by the CBD Secretariat outlining the purpose of the Global Partnership, a more detailed presentation by the Ministry of Environment, LIFE, who outlined their experience both as a certification mechanism and as part of the Brazilian initiative, and finally a presentation by the Wildlife Conservation Society (Chile) on the importance of engaging with the business sector and their experiences thus far. Overall the workshop received positive responses and served to generate interest and momentum for this topic in Chile.

A half-day meeting was held on 19 July with key stakeholders to discuss ways of developing the Chilean national initiative on business and biodiversity and integrating it into the Global Partnership. Organizations represented at this meeting included: Aguas Andinas (a water utility); AMCHAM Chile (North American Chile Chamber of Commerce); Arauco (forestry); Concha y Toro (wine); Melon (concrete industry); Ministry of Environment; SONAMI (National Association of Mining Companies); Dimacofi (paper company); Global Compact (Chile); LIFE Institute; AcciionRSE (Chilean branch of WBCSD); Fundacion Chile; and the SCBD. The Ministry and Fundacion Chile kicked off discussions explaining why they were looking to develop this initiative and how it would encourage greater cooperation and business engagement. The SCBD then detailed how the Global Partnership was to work and the experiences in other countries and regions with forming this type of initiative. The conversation that followed was widely supportive of moving forward and all participants saw this collaborative approach as being very positive. The meeting concluded with plans for further, wider engagement as well as plans to engage in the Montreal meeting of the Global Partnership.

European Union



Phase 2 of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform

The EU recently selected the contractor for Phase 2 of the Business and Biodiversity Platform and plan to hold an inception meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the operational aspects of launching the Platform and its activities. The Platform is likely to launch within a few months during Q4 2013.

Phase 2 of the Platform will take a different approach from the earlier version. Firstly, it will be open to all sectors. It will also provide an overview and updates on all European National B@B Platforms. Finally, a large part of the tasks will focus on themes including, but not restricted to: 1) Accounting for Natural Capital (measuring and valuing business impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, and reporting impacts and dependencies into accounting systems); 2) Innovation for biodiversity and business (promoting innovation that contributes to nature and biodiversity conservation and provides business opportunities as well as showcasing innovative business models); and 3) Access to finance and Innovative Financing Mechanisms for biodiversity-related business activities (showcasing investments in biodiversity both from a business and finance institutions perspective).

Climate-Friendly Agriculture for Europe: Lessons from Experience and Levers for Change

On 9-10 October 2013 the AgriClimateChange project will host in Toulouse (France) the European Conference “Climate-friendly agriculture for Europe: lessons from experience and levers for change in the EU”. This conference aims to discuss experiences, actions and policy proposals to reduce the impact of the European farming sector on climate change. This event represents the culmination of the LIFE+ “AgriClimateChange” project that aims at determining and supporting the farming practices that best contribute to fighting against climate change.

For over three years, more than 120 farms in four countries (France, Germany, Italy and Spain) have been assessed and have voluntarily taken steps towards a more climate-friendly agriculture. A specific software tool (ACCTool) was created to determine greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, energy consumption and carbon sequestration at the farm level. The results, which will be presented at the conference, show cuts between 10 and 40% in energy consumption and GHG emissions. The quantified data highlight that it is feasible to achieve significant reductions through the implementation of simple and affordable measures. In addition, these measures include initiatives that promote biodiversity, such as green covers or the creation of hedges. The work implemented in the last three years emphasize that low carbon farming is not only feasible but promotes biodiversity associated to farming areas and can be more competitive in economic terms.

France



A new paper from Orée, dealing with biodiversity and economics, will be targeted to all stakeholders wondering about biodiversity management in their economic activities. By answering the question “How can biodiversity be part of the corporate strategy?” it targets stakeholders who want to reconcile economic profitability and environmental preservation. Rather than a collection of good practices, the document will outline an approach, a pathway to follow, illustrated with several case studies conducted by Orée’s members, in conjunction with the working group “biodiversity and economics”. These case studies can be used by all companies interested in investigating opportunities to combine biodiversity and business issues. In this way, stakeholders will obtain a different perspective on biodiversity management, and will be able to make their strategic choices in the light of informed concepts and practical illustrations. In order to launch the publication of this book, a conference will be held by Orée and the Global Partnership for Biodiversity and Business on 22 October 2013 in Paris.

Germany



New Website of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative

The Germany-based 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative has set up a new website. Completely restructured, www.business-and-biodiversity.de has a new and fresh look. It provides information on the background and activities of the initiative and details all the member companies and their commitment to the Leadership Declaration. There is also an info pool containing various information and links for learning about the issue of business and biodiversity. The complete website is available in German. There is also an English version and a basic version in Japanese.

India



The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) organized the Second Roundtable on Business and Biodiversity (B&B) in partnership with GIZ, on 5 September 2013 in New Delhi, to discuss the scope and structure of an "India Business and Biodiversity Initiative". The Second Roundtable was convened as a follow-up to the first Roundtable, which was held in partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD on 18 April 2013 in New Delhi. The Second Roundtable was attended by over 50 participants from industry associations, private companies, public sector enterprises, financial institutions, business sustainability initiatives, national and international development and conservation organizations and the MoEF.

The proposed structure of the Indian Initiative envisages that it could comprise an "India B&B Platform" at the national level that would represent the initiative at the Global Platform. The B&B Platform should be business-led and hosted by an industry association or organization with wide outreach to Indian companies across different sectors and regions. The host organization should be willing and committed to provide and mobilize the necessary resources for activities of the B&B Platform. A "Strategic Advisory Group" comprising representatives from the MoEF, NGOs, eminent scientist/technical experts, business leaders, etc. is proposed to give overall orientation and advice to the B&B Platform. Under the India B&B Initiative, the host organization should offer technical services and support to companies for incorporating biodiversity management into their business operations. The companies should pay for the services received from the B&B Platform.

A broad activity plan and milestones for one year were also presented. The presentation on the proposed scope and structure of India B&B Initiative was followed by feedback and recommendations by the participants. In general, the discussions were very constructive and all of the participants supported proactively engaging businesses for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The MoEF appreciated that the discussions resulted in an agreement on the outline and structure for the India B&B Initiative and the Ministry also appreciated the offer by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to host the India B&B Platform and the support of the participants for this initiative. It was suggested a concrete work plan be prepared for engaging businesses with affirmative action for biodiversity conservation. The Ministry thanked GIZ for extending support for the initiative and assured its full cooperation and facilitation for the India B&B Platform.

Netherlands



Natural Capital Accounting

Leaders for Nature (LfN), the business engagement platform of IUCN NL, organized a Master Class on Natural Capital Accounting. The session, part of the LfN Academy, was hosted by the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and attracted 90 participants from 17 multinational and large Dutch companies, plus some IUCN members and Dutch government representatives. Companies discussed the nuts and bolt of Environmental Profit and Loss Accounting. Leaders for Nature has a flagship project in

which member companies work together on the implementation of natural capital accounting. This master class contributed to the process, and helps in building a 'coalition of the willing' to scale-up the action and leadership on natural capital accounting.

On 19 November there will be a Leaders for Nature Academy Master Class, hosted by IUCN member Natuurmonumenten in the Netherlands, on partnerships between companies and NGOs: How to build coalitions of the willing?

Republic of Korea



On 26 September 2013 the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Environment will host a Signing Ceremony for the Korean Business and Biodiversity Declaration, which will be the kick-off for a national initiative in Korea. Some 60 participants are expected at the ceremony, including approximately 25 executives of various companies and organizations. The Japanese Business and Biodiversity Partnership, the CBD Secretariat, the KBCSD (a regional partner of WBCSD), the Korea biotechnology industry organization and the Secretariat of Green Companies (designated by the MOE, Korea) are also supporting this event. This builds on several previous workshops and policy gatherings held in Korea before and after COP 11. The Korean initiative will undertake several activities in 2014 to help raise awareness of this issue amongst the Korean business community. Several functions are being planned in cooperation with partners for COP 12, scheduled for Pyeongchang, Korea, next year.

Sri Lanka



The Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity (B&B) Platform Completes its First Year

The Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform, established by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in association with IUCN and Dilmah Conservation a year ago, is now forging ahead with enhanced commitment to sustainable business practices enabling inclusive growth. The Platform demonstrates a novel approach towards preserving Sri Lanka's unique biological heritage, fostering opportunities for businesses to learn and share environmental and biodiversity conservation issues. Leading corporates with high standards of environmental custodianship have backed the initiative by becoming Patron Members of the Platform. As another significant milestone the Platform has now opened its doors to general membership. Membership of the Platform brings a wide array of benefits in the areas of biodiversity and environmental protection.

As a part of the services offered, the Platform has developed a comprehensive technical database comprising information on expertise available in diverse and relevant subject areas. Conservation-related requirements of businesses can now be channeled to the intellectual mainstream and academia through the Platform database. At present, the Platform is facilitating two projects related to biodiversity conservation - a comprehensive survey of the Sloth Bear population in the Wilpattu National Park funded by CIC Holdings PLC and an Organic Agriculture Project funded by Peoples Leasing and Finance PLC. The Platform is in the process of measuring and tracking the performance of these projects, striving towards continuous improvement. A host of other nationally important projects are in various planning stages and can be seen at the Platform website: www.business-biodiversity.lk.
