

Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Newsletter

January 2020 - Issue 9



Newsletter

Introduction

- [2020: The Year of Action](#)

Headlines

- [Mobilizing Actors to Create More Sustainable Agriculture Value Chains](#)
- [Wildlife Habitat Council](#)

News from the Secretariat

- [Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [An Overview of the Post-2020 Work Completed Thus Far](#)
- [Second Meeting of the OEWG](#)
- [Nominations Open for MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2020](#)
- [CBD's 2020 Resolutions Communication Campaign](#)

News from the GPBB

- [The Ninth Annual Meeting of the GPBB](#)
- [Visit to LafargeHolcim Quarry](#)
- [Natural Capitals Collaborations Day](#)
- [European Business and Nature Summit](#)
- [We Value Nature](#)
- [The Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity](#)
- [The Nuclear Power Group: Natural Energy Powering Nature](#)
- [The New European Green Deal](#)
- [EU B@B and the Start of a New Phase](#)
- [International, European and National Initiatives Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Involving Business](#)
- [The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative](#)
- [Biodiversity Sri Lanka's Members Take the Lead at its Annual Technical Sessions](#)

Mark your Calendars

- [2020 Timeline](#)
- [The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting](#)
- [OECD's Private Finance for Sustainable Development Conference](#)
- [Biodiversity and Business Indaba 2020](#)

2020: The Year of Action

Nature underpins the health of the planet and has a direct impact on prosperity and wellbeing. Ecosystems are the foundation for human development, equality and increasing our resilience to climate change.

We are entering 2020 – the Year for Action. We have a major opportunity to rewrite how our history was written. World leaders will get together in 2020 to forge an international agreement to reverse nature loss, and our role – as policy makers, business leaders and consumers – is to be bold, ambitious and take real action.



Our global economy and individual businesses have much to gain from addressing this crisis by developing economic models that can function in harmony with our planet. If we can re-imagine business as usual and make it fit for our planet, we might have a chance to halt and reverse the current trends in biodiversity loss.

Please view the new CBD website [here](#).

Headlines –

Mobilizing Actors to Create More Sustainable Agriculture Value Chains

While sustainable agriculture can benefit nature and biodiversity, the challenge remains getting all the different actors in agriculture to adopt more environmentally-friendly practices.



Photo: Nuril Haris

Rare is the leading behaviour change organization in conservation. Specializing in proven locally-led solutions which they bring to regional and national scales around the world, Rare's approach consists of identifying a conservation goal, its threats and understanding what behaviour change is needed and what the barriers are. [Rare's behavioural change toolkit](#) includes three key elements in addition to the standard rules and regulations, material incentives and information:

1. Know the decision-making approach of your audience; are they more rational and stimulated by data, or more emotional and moved by striking messages?
2. Understand that we are social animals, therefore be cognizant of the circle of influence of your audience; who are they more likely to listen to and can you get these people on your side to incorporate your solution in the decision-making process?
3. Create a context in which you go to your audience, to help make them feel comfortable and more in control.

Two PANORAMA case studies were presented:

- [Behaviour change for agriculture: working with Ecuadorian farmers for better delivery and communication.](#)
- [Sun drying wild Ethiopian coffee: a recipe for forest health and good marketing.](#)

The full article can be viewed [here](#).

Headlines – Wildlife Habitat Council

Every year, the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) convenes the largest gathering of corporate conservation professionals at its Conservation Conference. The 2019 event, held 19-20 November in Baltimore, Maryland, included 400 corporate EHS and CSR executives, site-based professionals, NGOs and government agencies. Speakers and exhibitors were drawn from a wide breadth of industry and NGO sectors including BASF, Bat Conservation International, CEMEX, Fiat Chrysler, Freeport-McMoRan, NatureServe, Ricoh and others, sharing strategies and inspirations to drive successful biodiversity programs around the world.



Session Highlights

The conference provided a variety of workshops and lectures tying business and biodiversity to education, corporate reporting, remediation efforts and diversity and inclusion initiatives. Breakout sessions covered topics both introductory and technical. The best attended breakout sessions on climate change and biodiversity saw almost 200 corporate delegates explore the intersections and opportunities for nature-based climate solutions.



Awards

In the spirit of celebration that the Conservation Conference is known for, 21 WHC Awards were given for excellence in corporate conservation. This year's top awards were presented to Bayer, Waste Management and the Matador Cattle Company. Over 700 conservation programs in 28 countries worldwide were recognized at the meeting.

Business and Biodiversity Book Launch

Following her annual State of Corporate Conservation address "["Make Biodiversity Material,"](#)" WHC President Margaret O'Gorman launched her new book, *Strategic Corporate Conservation Planning*, which offers a blue print for mainstreaming biodiversity into business and guides both private sector and civil society towards a practical approach for mutually beneficial conservation outcomes. The book is available [here](#).



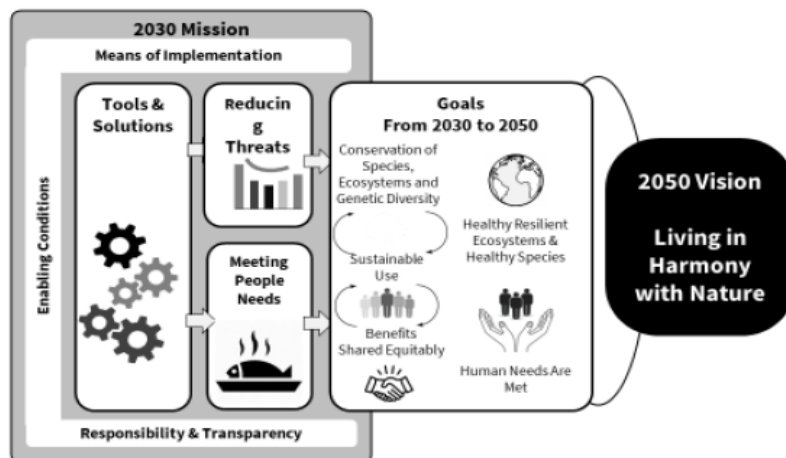
News from the Secretariat – Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The much anticipated Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has been published. It outlines the ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in society’s relationship with biodiversity and to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by all levels of society and it will be implemented primarily through activities at the national level, with supporting action at the subnational, regional and global levels.

The draft presents a theory of change which recognizes that urgent policy action globally, regionally, and nationally, is required to transform economic, social and financial models. The draft also includes the 20 action-oriented targets for 2030 which, if achieved, will contribute to the outcome-oriented goals for 2030 and 2050.

P2020 Overarching Framework: Theory of Change



Please go to the [website](#) to see the zero draft.

News from the Secretariat – An Overview of the Post-2020 Work Completed Thus Far

Regional Consultations

In decision [14/34](#), paragraph 6, the Conference of the Parties (COP) urged Parties and invited other Governments and stakeholders to “actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation”. Therefore, it was agreed that regional and thematic consultation workshops would take place as a platform for the discussions. The final reports of all regional consultations can be found here: [Asia and the Pacific](#), [Western European and Others Group and Other Members of the European Union](#), [Africa](#), [Central and Eastern Europe](#), and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#).

First OEWG

The [first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group](#) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held in August 2019 and consisted of the preparations towards achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, “Living in harmony with nature”. The agenda was designed to promote a reflection on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and lessons learnt, and what will need to be done to achieve the 2050 Vision. The final report of the first OEWG can be viewed [here](#).

Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity

The primary purpose of the [Ninth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity](#) was to provide participants, and in particular negotiators, with increased understanding of a range of issues relevant to the upcoming negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The full Conference report can be viewed [here](#) and the summary and key points can be viewed [here](#).

UN Climate Summit

Leaders were called on by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to attend the [Climate Action Summit](#) with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050. The Summit launched transformative initiatives in twelve critical areas that will provide the foundation for action going forward to reduce emissions and strengthen adaptation and resilience. The sixth track on nature-based solutions will focus on forests and land-based ecosystems, smart agriculture and food systems, regeneration of life in rivers, lakes and oceans and enabling of all people to connect to nature. The work-plan can be viewed [here](#).



News from the Secretariat – An Overview of the Post-2020 Work Completed Thus Far *(continued)*

The GPBB Annual Meeting

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity saw its biggest crowd to date as many looked to contribute in the efforts towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Initiatives and partners presented their work, knowledge, information and experiences of the past year. Presentations of efforts focused on business and biodiversity pushed many to think of the ways they can engage moving forward. The agenda and presentations are available on the [website](#).

Voluntary Business Contributions

The [Voluntary Business Contributions to the CBD for 2020 and beyond](#) offers a way for businesses to engage with the Secretariat and biodiversity efforts. The GPBB can act as a facilitator, a catalyst and coordinator of a call for commitments from the business sector. The aim is a clear, comprehensive view of mainstreaming biodiversity actions by state and non-state actors, to recognize commitments and inspire still greater ambition through an integrative and participatory approach.

Mainstreaming

The Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) is currently being developed by the CBD, and will advise on how to appropriately reflect biodiversity mainstreaming in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The LTAM will be adopted during COP 15 in Kunming, China in 2020. For more information on mainstreaming, please visit the webpage [here](#). For the full list of IAG and ECN members, please click [here](#).



Photo: IISD/ENB Mike Muzurakis

Article 8j and SBSTTA

The eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the CBD was held from 20-22 November 2019, in Montreal, Canada. The working group is open to all Parties; and indigenous peoples and local communities' representatives play a full and active role in its work. Traditional knowledge is considered a 'cross-cutting' issue that affects many aspects of biodiversity, and will continue to be addressed by the COP and by other working groups as well. The twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD was held from 25-29 November 2019, in Montreal, Canada. The body's role is to provide the COP and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. The documents and reports of both meetings can be found on the official conference page, [here](#).

News from the Secretariat –

Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Two Thematic Consultations

The second meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be held 24-29 February 2020, in Kuming, China. All information will be posted in due time on the meeting's [website](#).

The designation of representatives to attend the meeting should be submitted through an official letter of nomination addressed to the Secretariat, sent as a scanned e-mail attachment to secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514-288-6588, preferably by **31 January 2020**.



The thematic consultation on transparent implementation, monitoring, reporting and review for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be convened 21-22 February 2020. Further information on this consultation can be found [here](#).

The thematic consultation on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be convened on 1 March 2020, in the same venue. Further information on this consultation can be found [here](#).

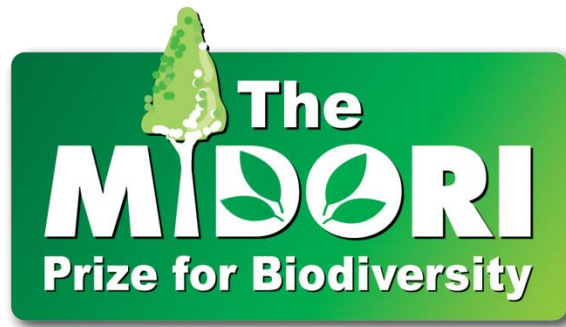
For more information, please find the notification letter [here](#).

News from the Secretariat – Nominations Open for the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2020

The MIDORI Prize is a biennial international prize co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the CBD that honours three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It aims to encourage positive action for biodiversity and inspire others by showcasing the notable work of those it honours.

The MIDORI Prize is open to everyone contributing to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the field of practical action, science, policy or public awareness. Candidates must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- **Achievement:** Have made outstanding achievements that greatly contribute to biodiversity.
- **Potential:** Have the ability to influence future activities related to biodiversity.
- **Impact:** Have conducted work which has impacts on various activities for biodiversity around the world.



The Prize honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Acting Executive Secretary, said: “The MIDORI Prize gives the world a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on the work of individuals dedicated to protecting biodiversity around the world. While we all move to agree on a new global biodiversity framework, the Prize will continue to raise public awareness not only on the essential role of biodiversity to assuring human well-being but also the nature-based solutions that biodiversity provides to global challenges like climate change.”

The Prize will be awarded at a special ceremony organized in Tokyo on 18 September 2020, prior to CBD’s COP 15. On the same day, The AEON Environmental Foundation will hold an event to mark the 30th anniversary of its establishment, with all past MIDORI Prize winners invited for a panel discussion.

Nominations are invited from members of the public through the [website](#) of the AEON Environmental Foundation. Please apply [here](#) before the deadline on **30 March 2020**.

News from the Secretariat – CBD’s 2020 Resolutions Communication Campaign

The coming year is full of opportunities to create real impact for the planet and all of us who call it home. The 2020 [UN Ocean Conference](#), the UN Biodiversity Summit, [UNFCCC COP 26](#) on climate change and our own [COP 15](#), with the adoption of a new global framework for biodiversity, are just a few of the key dates on the calendar.


To coincide with the start of this biodiversity “Super Year”, the CBD will launch a “2020 resolution” communications campaign highlighting the historic opportunity we have next year. The campaign will feature government leaders, leaders from the UN system and partner organizations, as well as members of the public, stating their resolve to advance biodiversity goals in 2020. Leaders may wish to speak on a personal level or on behalf of their organization. Statements should be 30-60 seconds in length, delivered speaking directly to a camera.

We invite you to share these videos on your social media platforms beginning 1 January. In addition, if you send us your videos in MP4 format, we can share them as well and may use them in a compilation video. Please do so by contacting Margaret Egbula (Margaret.Egbula@cbd.int), CBD’s Communication’s Officer.



**2020
RESOLUTION
FOR NATURE+PEOPLE**
video campaign

- 1) Make a pledge to advance biodiversity & nature goals in 2020.
- 2) Record a short video, or snap a selfie.
- 3) Share with the hashtag #biodiversity2020.

 Convention on
Biological Diversity

News from the GPBB – The Ninth Annual Meeting of the GPBB

Between 4-8 November 2019, hundreds of delegates representing business, finance, government and civil society convened in Madrid for the 2019 Natural Capital Week. As previously mentioned, this year's GPBB annual meeting on 5 November drew an interesting crowd and encouraged discussions on the role business plays in the efforts of biodiversity conservation and the upcoming discussions on the global biodiversity framework and beyond.

The meeting was the main occasion for the GPBB to meet ahead of COP 15, providing a chance to explore opportunities for private sector actions and efforts towards the post-2020 framework.



Initiatives and partners presented their work, knowledge, information and experiences, and the main topics included:

- [Voluntary Business Contributions to the CBD and beyond](#)
- The Road to 2020
- The [Aligning Biodiversity Measures for Business](#) initiative
- [Biological Diversity Protocol](#)
- [LIFE Certification](#)
- [Action Agenda for Nature and People](#)
- The [Business for Nature Coalition](#)
- [We Value Nature](#)
- The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



Through future events, collaboration and meetings, we hope to amplify business engagement and help with the transition to a more sustainable future.

We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to Fundación Biodiversidad for their immense support in developing the meeting and providing the means to execute it.

To view the meeting agenda and the presentations, please visit the [website](#).

News from the GPBB – Visit to the LafargeHolcim Quarry

A visit to the Yepes-Ciruelos quarry, which supplies material to the LafargeHolcim Group in Villaluenga de la Sagra, took place within the framework of the ninth annual meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity on 4 November 2019.

Experts in business and biodiversity from countries like Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan, Germany and Colombia had the opportunity to learn about the quarry restoration project and the valuation of the ecosystem services generated through it, using a tool that calculates and quantifies the economic value of the services provided in order to highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of the rehabilitation process.



The ecological restoration project was designed by LafargeHolcim, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences of the University of Castilla-La Mancha and the environmental consultancy firm Plegadis, which is committed to re-vegetation work with those endemic species of high ecological value that are best suited to each area of the quarry, such as slopes, rock walls, wetlands and depressions.

Aixa Sopeña, head of the Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative, acknowledged that “the Yepes-Ciruelos quarry is an excellent example of best practices and commitments to biodiversity, as well as being a reference point for collaboration between private enterprise and administration – a model for other mining developers.”

The objective of the restoration site is the creation of a natural reserve through the ecological restoration of the mining space, which favours the floristic, structural and functional diversity of the regional ecosystems, creating and improving ecological niches for the regional fauna of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. The aim is to have a site for public use, oriented to the conservation of the biodiversity and awareness raising.

You can read Zoë Roher’s thesis ‘Breeding Cliff-Nesting Birds at Mining Sites: Management Recommendations’ [here](#). Please visit the virtual image [here](#).

News from the GPBB – Natural Capitals Collaborations Day

Building on last year's successful Collaboration Day, the Capitals Coalition - which unites the Natural Capital Coalition and the Social and Human Capital Coalition - held its first Capitals Collaboration Day on 6 November 2019, which brought together the natural, social and human capital agendas and communities.

The event challenged participants to identify opportunities for further alignment between the different capitals, and with the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants acknowledged the need to raise the profile of social and human capital within Climate Action narratives, the opportunity to quantify the role of natural capital in supporting Good Health and Well-being, the need to interplay socio-economic information when conserving Life on Land, and how capitals framing can help to internalize natural and social issues for organizations.

Practical cases were shared by businesses including Olam, CEPSA and Iberdrola on how natural capital thinking has been adopted internally. Participants also heard how the public sector is designing interventions and incentives around natural capital with examples from Scottish Natural Heritage and the South African Government.

The Capitals Collaboration Day helped to frame how the new Capitals Coalition will drive collaborative progress towards impactful and integrated decision-making across the system. For more information, please contact the coalition at info@capitalscoalition.org.



“Why did you decide to collaborate with other organizations, rather than push forward on your own as a leading organization?”

Because nature needs collaboration. We tried to do it on our own, but nature is a bigger issue than any one company.

News from the GPBB – European Business and Nature Summit

The two-day event, 7-8 November 2019, closed the Natural Capitals week by gathering delegates from businesses, the finance sector, government and civil society to advance the key political decisions on nature in 2020 aiming to strengthen the role of businesses in supporting nature conservation and its sustainable use. The European Business and Nature Summit (EBNS) highlighted progress made by businesses and financial institutions who explained how a natural capital approach is enabling them to deliver value for nature and people and giving them the tools necessary to mitigate risk and to identify opportunities for efficiency, resilience and innovation.

The summit displayed existing and new business actions and commitments that shall contribute to CBD's Action Agenda for Nature and People as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be adopted during COP 15 in Kunming, China in 2020. The summit also highlighted some best practice examples that take into account a businesses' growth and progress by measuring impacts and dependencies on natural capital and set targets.



Photo: Ecoacsa Reserva de Biodiversidad



Photo: Ecoacsa Reserva de Biodiversidad

There was a clear call that to make businesses part of the solution, it is essential for the corporate decision-makers to gain comprehensive insights into both the impacts and the dependencies of their products and the processes on natural capital throughout their value chain.

Some new initiatives working towards promoting a business voice during the lead up to 2020 and beyond were presented during the summit and include [Business for Nature](#), [One Planet Business for Biodiversity](#), and [Value Balancing Alliance](#). The EBNS also highlighted recent initiatives by financial institutions and businesses to achieve net positive impacts on nature.

The agenda and speakers of the EBNS can be found [here](#). You can explore videos and presentations of the EBNS here: [first day](#) & [second day](#).

News from the GPBB – We Value Nature

The [We Value Nature Campaign](#), an EU-funded Campaign aimed at increasing business' uptake of natural capital in decision-making, played an active role during the EBNS.

On the first day of the Summit, the Campaign provided an interactive and practical training introducing the concept of natural capital, why it matters to business and how companies can get started on their natural capital journey. In total, nearly 40 participants took part in the training, representing businesses, NGOs, as well as industry and business associations.



The next day, the We Value Nature team provided a 'train-the-trainer' session to 35 participants, walking them through a full day training module on natural capital which includes a variety of interactive group exercises, games and practical case studies. The train-the-trainer session equips participants with the needed understanding, and skills to provide training on natural capital to their respective company, colleagues or member companies therefore enhancing and spreading the important task of building business capacity to value nature in decision-making.

With 2020 set to be the "Super Year" for nature and an increasingly strong call for the business community to take action for nature, there has never been a better time for businesses to assess their impacts and dependencies on natural capital and integrate the value of nature into decision-making processes. This also means that capacity building has a key role to play in order to ensure that businesses have the right tools, resources and knowledge at hand to take the next step.



In addition to its in-person training and train-the-trainer sessions, in 2020, the We Value Nature campaign will be providing online training, helpdesk calls, as well as targeted training and communication material for the finance and food & beverage sectors. Should you be interested in any of the above-mentioned activities, you may contact Katia Bonga (bonga@wbcsd.org).

News from the GPBB – The Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity

The Brazilian Business Commitment for Biodiversity document aims to highlight the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for companies, as well as the fundamental role that they can play in conservation and sustainable use in their consumption and production patterns.

Twelve companies associated with CEBDS (Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development) have signed the document that sets out nine goals by 2030 that are focused on prevention, mitigation, compensation and information generation and sharing. The document was launched on 29 October 2019, at the WCMC-UNEP event on Aligning Measures for Biodiversity in Rio de Janeiro.



By joining the commitment, Anglo American, Bayer, Grupo Boticário, BRK Ambiental, Eletrobras, Equinor, Furnas, Natura, Philip Morris, Shell, Suzano and Votorantim Cimentos have put biodiversity conservation into their business strategies and committed, for example, to measuring their impacts and dependencies on environmental services and biodiversity. Each signatory company must commit to at least three of the nine goals. Signatories should describe the chosen methodologies and indicators defined by the individual companies for monitoring the goals. CEBDS will offer a set of guidelines to support this self-declaration process.

CEBDS will disclose the results of the actions carried out, with regular annual monitoring. In doing so, the Council hopes to contribute to halting current biodiversity losses and create a business environment that combines conservation and economic development.



The Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development document can be downloaded [here](#).

News from the GPBB – The Nuclear Power Group: Natural Energy Powering Nature

The China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN), founded in September 1994, comprises China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGNPC) and its 45 major member companies. CGN's mission is to “develop clean energy to benefit mankind”. While building and managing many clean energy projects in multiple bases across the world, including nuclear power, wind power and solar power projects, CGN is also involved in actively expanding business in financial services, nuclear technology, energy conservation services, and environmental protection services, and has achieved significant growth in these fields.



As a clean energy supplier and service provider, CGN insists on the highest compliance standards, in addition to creating jobs and contributing economically. CGN has strengthened communication with global partners, actively participated in building a dialogue platform, promoted the development of energy technology and clean energy industries, and actively supported the sustainable development of local communities. In recent years, CGN has paid more attention to biodiversity conservation, proactively researched and evaluated the impact of company operations on biodiversity conservation and exchanged ideas on biodiversity conservation with partners from various countries.

On 3 September 2019, CGN released its *2018 Global Sustainability Report* in Paris. The report details CGN's actions and contributions to economic, environmental, and societal sustainable development. On 7 August 2019, CGN released the first biodiversity conservation report, *2019 Biodiversity Conservation Report of CGN's Daya Bay Nuclear Power Base*. On 7 December 2019, CGN attended the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

More than 200 animal and plant species have been found on land and in the surrounding waters of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Base in Guangdong province, including eight that are under state key protection. CGN has retained the original 13-hectare tea garden and hired local villagers to take care of it at the Ningde Nuclear Power Base in Fujian province. The Husab uranium mine in Namibia is China's largest entity investment project in Africa. During the development of the project, CGN modified the design route many times to avoid the transplantation of more than 100 welwitschia plants, the national flower of Namibia.

You can learn more about the China General Nuclear Power Group [here](#).

News from the GPBB – The New European Green Deal

The European Green Deal aims to improve the well-being of people. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting the natural habitat will be good for people, the planet and the economy.

With this New Green Deal, the EU will:

- Become climate-neutral by 2050.
- Protect human life, animals and plants, by cutting pollution.
- Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies.
- Help ensure a just and inclusive transition.

Reaching the first target will require action by all sectors of the economy. In order to achieve this, the EU will:

- *Energy* – Decarbonise the energy sector.
- *Buildings* – Renovate buildings, to help people cut their energy bills and energy use.
- *Industry* – Support industry to innovate and to become global leaders in the green economy.
- *Mobility* – Roll out cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport.

In terms of biodiversity, the European Commission will present a Biodiversity Strategy in March 2020 and propose a global target to protect biodiversity at COP15. The Commission will also prepare a new EU Forest Strategy for planting and restoration. Furthermore, the Commission will support the development of standardised natural capital accounting practices for businesses.



More information about the European Green Deal can be found [here](#), including details on all policy areas.

News from the GPBB – EU B@B and the Start of a New Phase

The EU B@B Platform works with businesses and financial institutions to help them integrate biodiversity and natural capital into their practices. The EU B@B Platform is starting a new phase in its activities and aims to strengthen its relevance for and engagement with EU businesses. It has published a survey designed to help the EU B@B Platform team better understand how to adapt the current Platform's positioning and activities to meet the member's ambitions and needs in the next three years.



For more details, please visit the webpage [here](#) or access the survey [here](#).



**Business @
Biodiversity**

News from the GPBB – International, European and National Initiatives Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Involving Business

Scientific studies, especially the several IPBES biodiversity and ecosystem services assessments, have made it impossible to ignore the impacts of human activities on biodiversity and the linkage with biodiversity loss. In response, a great number of coalitions, engagement charters, initiatives and other types of organizations have been launched to involve different stakeholders and incite them into taking action.

The French initiative is indexing a maximum of these organizations, trying to focus on those working with companies and on their impacts & dependencies on biodiversity. However, these initiatives may not only be working on biodiversity subjects, some of them can combine different issues such as climate, social issues, finance, etc. Those different initiatives propose for companies to engage in limiting and managing their impacts on nature.



The initiatives are sorted according to the geographic level of implication of the different actors (international, European, national). For international initiatives, a distinction has been made according to the type of project initiator. Each initiative is categorized according to the type of engagement proposed, the type of actors engaged, the funders, and the type of work provided and on which subjects.

The [International, European and national initiatives mainstreaming biodiversity and involving businesses](#) document is now available in French.



ORÉE, as the French focal point for the GPBB, has participated in the development of the French strategy for biodiversity dedicated to the involvement of companies: [Entreprises Engagées pour la Nature – Act4nature France](#). It was launched with the Ministry of Ecology.

The French initiative is also involved in the construction of Act4nature International, a business engagement platform for global companies.

News from the GPBB – The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative

The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative (SBBI) has published its latest balance report during the EBNS.

The report shows SBBI's activity between 2016 and 2018. As part of its main objectives, the document aims to highlight the contributions made by the member companies towards preserving biodiversity.

It provides an update of SBBI activities, a description of its main projects, conferences, working groups and publications, including 'A Practical Guide to Ecological Restoration'.

An interesting exercise was made in this report reflecting the engagement of Spanish companies and some aspects about their environmental management. Answering to a specific survey, it was interesting to note that CEO motivation is seen as one of the most important drivers to consider biodiversity in the company strategy.

Information about SDG integration, circular economy and a profile of the more than 200 projects analysed during this period is synthesised. The commitment of the companies is a continuous process; therefore this document also includes specific objectives of companies for the coming years.

The PDF version of the layman report is available on the [SBBI webpage](#).



News from the GPBB – Biodiversity Sri Lanka’s Members Take the Lead at its Annual Technical Sessions

With the theme of “Bridging the elements of biodiversity conservation: Save, Study, Use” and with the participation of over 300 local and foreign participants, Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) held its annual technical sessions aligning with the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) - Asia Pacific Chapter Conference from 10-13 September 2019.



BSL successfully conducted nine symposia on a diversity of topics, namely Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture, Conservation Partnerships, Plastics and Long-term Marine Pollution, Conserving Coastal Biodiversity, Sustaining Mangroves, Species Conservation, Green Tourism, Conservation Communications and Sustainable Banking. Members drew on their experiences in each of the symposia themes interspersed with scientific presentations in line with the respective topics.

Highlights from the conference include:

- Dilmah Conservation, BSL’s Initiating Partner and Patron Member Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company’s conservation arm, presented their distinctive portfolio of projects geared to conserve natural and cultural heritage in Sri Lanka.
- The symposium titled *Sustainable Agriculture: Utilizing Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Development*, at which four private sector led presentations were made, attracted a diversity of local and international participants.
- BSL’s General Member, Citizens Development and Business Finance, who delivered the lead talk of the Conservation Communications symposium, recognized that capacity development in environment has increasingly emerged as a key approach to environmental conservation and gained more credence when multi-faceted communication processes are implemented within a corporate setting.



Altogether, over 30 private-sector led environmental initiatives from over 20 organizations, more than 80% of which are BSL member companies, were actively engaged with the conference. BSL’s efforts to feature private sector interventions were widely recognized as a landmark in the history of ATBC Conferences and the potential to build a platform for researchers, conservation practitioners and the private sector to formally link through scientific discourse was created.

Mark your Calendars – 2020 Timeline

January 2020		
Date	Event	Location
14-16	Thematic Workshop on Resource Mobilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Berlin, Germany
21-24	The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting	Davos, Switzerland
28-30	OECD's Private Finance for Sustainable Development Conference	Paris, France
29-31	World Sustainable Development Summit 2020	New Delhi, India
February 2020		
21-22	Thematic Consultation on Transparent Implementation, Monitoring, Reporting, and Review for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Kunming, China
23-28	World Biodiversity Forum	Davos, Switzerland
24-29	The Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Kunming, China
March 2020		
Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be made available		
1	Thematic Consultation on Capacity-building and Technical and Scientific Cooperation for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Kunming, China
17-20	Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information	Montreal, Canada
May 2020		
The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook will be published		
11-15	XVII World Water Congress convened by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA)	Daegu, Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea
18-23	Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice	Montreal, Canada
International Day for Biological Diversity – 22 May		
25-29	Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation	Montreal, Canada

Mark your Calendars – 2020 Timeline *(continued)*

June 2020		
2-6	UN Oceans Conference 2020	Lisbon, Portugal
World Environment Day – 5 June		
World Oceans Day – 8 June		
11-19	IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Summit 	Marseille, France
12	G7 Summit	Florida, USA
July 2020		
7-16	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2020	New York City, USA
27-31	The third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Cali, Colombia
September 2020		
15-30	75 th Session of the United Nations General Assembly	New York City, USA
TBC	UN Biodiversity Summit	New York City, USA
October 2020		
TBC	COP 15: Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Biodiversity Forum • Technology and Innovation fair • GPBB's 10th Annual Meeting 	Kunming, China
TBC	CP/MOP 10: Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Kunming, China
TBC	NP/MOP 4: Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing	Kunming, China
18-23	UNCTAD 15: Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	Bridgetown, Barbados
December 2020		
9-19	UNFCCC COP 26	TBC
21-22	G20 Summit	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Mark your Calendars – The World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting

The World Economic Forum (WEF) engages political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to share global, regional and industry agendas. The [WEF Annual Meeting](#) will address the most pressing issues on the global agenda.

Four global issues stand out and will be featured on the agenda at the Annual Meeting:

1. How to address the urgent climate and environmental challenges that are harming our ecology and economy.
2. How to transform industries to achieve more sustainable and inclusive business models as new political, economic and societal priorities change trade and consumption patterns.
3. How to govern the technologies driving the Fourth Industrial Revolution so they benefit business and society while minimizing their risks to them.
4. How to adapt to the demographic, social and technological trends reshaping education, employment and entrepreneurship.

The annual meeting will take place between **21-24 January 2020** in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland. Participation is by invitation to specific Forum communities.



Mark your Calendars – OECD’s Private Finance for Sustainable Development Conference

As we speak, there is a big risk of not achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One major factor is the insufficient commitment to the SDGs from private finance institutions and businesses. They are not aligned with SDGs nor are they compatible with low-emission, climate resilient development pathways.



2020 PRIVATE FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The theme for this year’s OECD Conference is *Aligning finance with the Sustainable Development Goals*. It will be held in Paris, France between **28-30 January 2020**.

The international community can move towards alignment with sustainable development in two parts:

- Direct development and commercial finance towards socially and environmentally sustainable projects.
- Ensure business operations contribute to the SDGs, through their employment sourcing, supply chain, labelling and other policies.



For more information, please visit the [website](#).

Mark your Calendars – Biodiversity and Business Indaba 2020

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) works towards protecting wildlife and habitats, with their vision of a world in which both humans and wildlife prosper in harmony with nature.

The EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) recognises the importance of biodiversity to business and aims to build the capacity of business to act as a positive force for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa.



The biodiversity economy of South Africa encompasses business and economic activities that either directly depend on biodiversity for their core business or that contribute to conservation of biodiversity through their activities.

This year's Indaba, held on **18 February 2020**, will focus on risk, reputation and reporting, and invites participants from across a variety of areas, including sustainability and biodiversity specialists, practitioners and consultants, risk managers, corporate affairs specialists and decision makers.

The focus of the event will be the following question: Does business have a biodiversity blind spot?

For registration details, please click [here](#).



Global Partnership

for Business and Biodiversity



Convention on
Biological Diversity