

Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Newsletter – October 2019

Issue 8



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Headlines - UN Global Compact Leaders Week

As part of the UN Climate Action Summit, the UN Global Compact held a 'Leaders Week' where the world's leading Chief Executives, Heads of State and civil society gathered and discussed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other pressing environmental issues. It provided leaders with the opportunity to increase their ambition and commitment to action, foster strategic and durable partnerships and highlight solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges. The 'Leaders Week' aimed to showcase the ambitious business leadership and action turning corporate sustainability into a practical, mainstream reality.



The week had a full agenda and a range of business and nature-related themes that provided an opportunity for companies to engage with the environmental agenda and to allow private sector cooperation and raise the sense of urgency for immediate action. Click on the logo below to visit the website.



UN GLOBAL COMPACT
▶ **LEADERS WEEK**

Headlines -

The Economics of Biodiversity: Call for Evidence

In March 2019, a new independent global review was announced by Her Majesty's Treasury in the UK to assess the economic value of biodiversity and to identify actions that will simultaneously enhance biodiversity and deliver economic prosperity. More specifically, the Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity will:

- Assess the economic benefits of biodiversity globally.
- Assess the economic costs and risks of biodiversity loss.
- Identify a range of actions that can simultaneously enhance biodiversity and deliver economic prosperity.



Leading the review, Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta has said that “by placing an economic value on the benefits of biodiversity we will be able to prevent its demise – which is a win-win for our future generations and economies.”

The review will attempt to address the need for evidence-based indicators for governments across the world to be able to design policies that take into account the natural environment and its resources. The [Call for Evidence](#) will run until **6 November 2019**. The primary audiences for the review are economic and finance policy and decision-makers who significantly influence the response to biodiversity loss through policy, finance and investment decisions.

On 16 September it was revealed that Sir David Attenborough will be the review's ambassador.

The review will report ahead of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity taking place in Kunming, China in **October 2020**.



Headlines –

The EU Commission's Guidance on Integrating Ecosystems and their Services in Decision-Making

The EU Guidance document is intended to provide policy-makers with the necessary tools to improve their policies, planning and business investment decisions. It highlights the wide range of benefits that flow from nature and possible ways to take better account of these benefits. With nature's role in the efforts to limit climate change, it is important to organize ourselves in a manner that protects it and seeks to restore it.



The EU initiative has proposed the mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES) which demonstrate the links between natural ecosystems and socioeconomic systems through the flow of ecosystem services.

The document is composed of three parts. The first part asks the questions of why it is important to integrate ecosystems and their services into decision-making, and what are the guiding principles and processes to achieve this. The second part looks at ecosystems and their services in EU policy, spatial planning and the natural capital of businesses. The third part looks at the instruments to support the integration, different ecosystem services and some case studies.

The EU Guidance document is available in three parts: [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#); and [Part 3](#).



Business @
Biodiversity



Headlines – Launch of One Planet Business for Biodiversity

One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B) is an international cross-sectoral, action-oriented business coalition on biodiversity specifically focused on agriculture. It is committed to drive change, encourage action to protect and restore cultivated and natural biodiversity, engage decision-makers, and develop and promote policy recommendations ahead of CBD COP 15.



OP2B is supported by three pillars:

1. Scaling up regenerative agriculture practices to protect soil health;
2. Developing product portfolios to boost cultivated biodiversity and increase the resilience of the food and agriculture models; and
3. Eliminating deforestation while enhancing the management, restoration and protection of high-value natural ecosystems.

The coalition currently consists of nineteen companies, which include big corporations such as Kellogg's, Google, L'Oréal and Nestlé.

To learn more about the coalition, visit their [website](#) and their [statement of ambition](#).



Headlines – Business for Nature

The [Business for Nature Coalition](#) was simultaneously launched in July 2019 at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of New Champions in China and the Trondheim Conferences on Biodiversity in Norway. Business for Nature will convene a united business voice at international negotiations in 2020 to call on governments to adopt an ambitious new deal for nature and people to protect and enhance the natural world, supported by specific sets of actions.



To demonstrate and amplify the business movement, Business for Nature is working to:

- Develop a commitment framework by identifying existing business commitment platforms through which businesses are taking a stand to show how they aggregate into a broader movement of business for a more sustainable future;
- Build a library of existing solutions that can be replicated; and
- Draft a set of detailed policy recommendations for policy-makers, which will identify policies and mechanisms needed to enable the private sector to scale-up actions. This allows for the transformation of the financial and economic systems to reverse the loss of nature and ensure the planet's viability.



The 2019 United Nations General Assembly and Climate Action Summit was a key moment for Business for Nature to start engaging with businesses to amplify the existing movement. For the occasion, Business for Nature prepared a detailed preliminary position on policy recommendations.

Headlines – Producing and Marketing – In a Biodiversity- Friendly Way!

Some of the first and successful entrepreneurial pioneers in biodiversity-friendly production and marketing are already active. However, most of the political framework conditions are not yet oriented at promoting biodiversity-friendly production. This being said, many private sector stakeholders are developing approaches to integrate biodiversity into their production and marketing methods.



Photo: ©Charlotte Haeusler Vargas/GIZ

The 'Private Business Action for Biodiversity' project recently inquired about instruments, processes, and mechanisms that are particularly suitable for promoting more biodiversity-friendly production and marketing and those which are less appropriate. The focus of the analysis was on voluntary sustainability standards and labels as well as private financing mechanisms. Studies were carried out on political framework conditions, stakeholders and existing instruments and mechanisms in the partner countries of Brazil, India and Mexico, to gain an overview of the mechanisms and instruments already being used. At the same time, specific case studies for biodiversity-friendly production and marketing were identified and analyzed in the three countries.

In terms of cooperation, especially in the case of small and medium-sized enterprises, recommendations were made for project-implementing organizations, donors and companies in the following sectors:

- Results monitoring.
- Traceability.
- Financing mechanisms.
- Management tools.
- Capacity development.



Photo: ©David Suro/Tequila Interchange Project

The project 'Private Business Action for Biodiversity' is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The project has compiled a brochure that provides an overview of these results and recommendations. The results of the scoping phase of the 'Private Business Action For Biodiversity' project, September 2016 – February 2018 are available to download in [German](#) and [English](#) in the IKI Infotheque.

Headlines –

Manuals for ‘Biodiversity Action Plans’ in spice cultivation

The Western Ghats, a mountain range in southwest India, is one of the world’s most important biodiversity hotspots. It is also one of the main growing areas for spices such as pepper, cardamom, nutmeg and cinnamon. Spices are an essential livelihood for millions of smallholders in India. However, changes in cultivation methods endanger the production base, eventually leading to the destruction of biodiversity and the environment.



Photo ©GIZ/Charlotte Haeusler Vargas

This is where the project, ‘Private Business Action for Biodiversity’ comes into its own – in cooperation with the Global Nature Fund, the project has developed guidelines for drawing up ‘Biodiversity Action Plans’, which enable producers to plan better and to implement measures to protect biodiversity in and around the production areas. This preserves ecosystem services that form an important basis for the production of spices such as fertile soil, clean water, pollination, and climate regulation. The guidelines also serve as a basis for the integration of biodiversity-friendly measures for companies and standards.

In addition to developing guidelines for the spice sector, the project also trains advisors of Indian companies and standard organizations on how to draw up biodiversity action plans and accompanies pilot applications on site.

The project ‘Private Business Action for Biodiversity’ is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). Manuals with guidelines on how to prepare biodiversity action plans for the typical spices of the [Western Ghats](#) (pepper, cardamom, nutmeg and cinnamon) and [chili](#) are now available.

News from the Secretariat – First Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Framework

The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held at the United Nations offices in Nairobi, Kenya, from 27 to 30 August 2019. The post-2020 framework consists of the preparations towards 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 ensure the accomplishment of the 2050 Vision. The meeting enabled Parties, representatives from non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), the private sector and partners to bring together their views about the structure and execution and possible elements that should be part of the framework and the next steps going forward in the process.



All photos by IISD/ENB | Diego Noguera

Please visit the [draft report](#) and the [meeting reports](#) websites.



News from the Secretariat – UNEP Catalogue

The January – June UNEP Catalogue has been published. It includes a list of selected publications collectively issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Of particular interest to biodiversity issues is [UNEP's Sixth Global Environment Outlook \(GEO-6\)](#) publication. The GEO-6 report outlines the current state of the environment, illustrates possible future environmental trends and analyses the effectiveness of policies. The GEO-6 builds on sound scientific knowledge to provide businesses, among others, with the information needed to guide societies to a truly sustainable world by 2050. Next year, the report will come out with an assessment on businesses, specifically.

Also featured is the 'A New Deal for Nature' series which seeks to find a new way to coexist and thrive with nature. This new deal must include the participation of the whole of society, including citizens, businesses and countries. It calls for five transformations to facilitate a sustainable relationship: account for the true value of nature; change the way we produce and consume food; conserve wildlife and wild spaces; restore the degraded planet; and promote a better-built environment. The series can be found under the 'Ecosystems' chapter of the catalogue.

Other chapters featured in the catalogue include:

- Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality.
- Climate Change.
- Environment under Review.
- Environmental Governance.
- Resource Efficiency.

Please visit the full catalogue [here](#).



News from GPBB -

France: Sustainable Energies Seminar

On 20 September, the Energy Task Force (ETF) of the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) met in Paris for its 4th meeting. French and foreign actors of the energy and biodiversity sectors took this opportunity to meet and discuss the conciliation of the challenges in the context of the 2020 deadlines: the three COPs on Climate, Biodiversity and of the CMS.



This seminar was organized by ORÉE as an official observer of the Energy Task Force, in collaboration with BirdLife International, in partnership with the French Natural History Museum, and with the support of the French Ministry of the Environment. The seminar allowed national and international actors, whether they are companies, local authorities, experts or associations, to work together towards sustainably benefiting from biodiversity with renewables energies.

It reviewed the major biodiversity issues at the national and international level during round-table discussions that included various actors and addressed several issues surrounding renewable energies:

- Global changes, energy, and migration.
- Renewable energies and territories: developments and stakeholder's new roles.
- Strategic planning of choices.



The [website](#) was launched. This internet platform allows stakeholders to follow the regulations on renewable energies, the information about technological innovations and to provide knowledge on major challenges and their solutions. By taking biodiversity into account, renewable energy projects can become sustainable alternatives and this platform is the mechanism that can help stakeholders make sustainable choices.



News from GPBB – China Business and Biodiversity Platform

The Business Case for Protecting Biodiversity with Digitalization

Tencent is an internet-based platform company that uses technology to enrich the lives of Internet users and assist the digital upgrade of enterprises. In line with the “Technology for Social Good” mission, Tencent is committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability through the “Internet+” model, which applies big data, cloud computing and AI to the realm of ecological and environmental conservation.

In 2015, Tencent launched the “Tencent for the Planet” project. Under this, Tencent explored digital biodiversity and the protection of ecological resources and rare species in collaboration with the government, the public and welfare organizations. In 2018, Tencent signed a strategic cooperation agreement with law enforcement agencies to jointly crack down on illegal wildlife trade online.



“Business and Biodiversity Partnership Declaration”

On 22 May, during the International Day for Biological Diversity, FECO held the signing ceremony for the “Business and Biodiversity Partnership Declaration” where companies and organizations came together to strengthen the Chinese partnership. FECO is operationalizing the China Business and Biodiversity Partnership (CBBP) to bolster the efforts of businesses to integrate biodiversity into decision-making, which has been formally presented by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Natural Capital Coalition

On 12 June, the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Office (FECO), the Natural Capital Coalition and GoldenBee CSR Consulting jointly held a training seminar on the “[Natural Capital Protocol](#)” at the 14th China Corporate Social Responsibility International Forum in Beijing. The China Business and Biodiversity Partnership (CBBP) showcased the newly established Belt and Road Initiative for the International Development Green Coalition.



Annual Report

Please find the [Biodiversity Report 2018 of Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group Co., Ltd.](#), supported by the CBBP, by clicking on the title of the report.



Mark your Calendars – Private Land Conservation Conference

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance Conference (PLC19) will take place from **8 to 10 October** at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, Australia.



The conference will build on the momentum towards private land conservation across Australia and it will ask the question of how can our impacts be more significant and efficient for nature?

This year's theme 'Rising to the Challenge' perfectly encompasses this question as well as others. Discussions will be guided towards large-scale, meaningful solutions and outcomes. This will be a great opportunity to share and benefit from knowledge, perspectives, research and experiences.

Please view the program [here](#).

You can register [here](#).



Mark your Calendars – Business Training on the Value of Nature



We Value Nature will hold its first training event on **17 October 2019** in Lisbon. The one-day training is free of charge and is targeted at businesses interested in learning more about how to integrate natural capital into their internal decision-making.

During the event, businesses will:

- Gain an understanding of the relationships between business and nature, and related risks and opportunities;
- Explore practical approaches and tools to integrate natural capital into business decision-making;
- Learn from other peers and leading companies' experiences; and
- Discover concrete examples of natural capital integration on the ground.

For more information and to register your interest in participating, please visit the event [website](#).





'Save the Week': Natural Capitals Week in Madrid

5 November:
Global Partnership for
Business and
Biodiversity Annual
Meeting

6 November:
Capitals Collaboration
Day

7 and 8 November:
European Business and
Nature Summit





Mark your Calendars – Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Annual Meeting



The Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity will hold its 9th Annual Meeting on **5 November**, at the Fundación Biodiversidad, Madrid, Spain.

The meeting will be an opportunity to address key elements of the engagement of the private sector and will showcase tools and solutions with a broader view of current trends, challenges, and opportunities for the advancement of the Business and Biodiversity agenda worldwide.

Key points of discussion include:

- Report from the Chair and activities since the Egypt meeting in 2018.
- Updates from CBD.
- Global Framework for Biodiversity.
- Tools and mechanisms in Business and Biodiversity.
- Action Agenda for Nature and People.
- The road to 2020.

Please register [here](#). For more information, please contact bianca.brasil@cbd.int and natalie.paruzel.intern@cbd.int



Global Partnership
for Business and Biodiversity



Convention on
Biological Diversity





Mark your Calendars – We Value Nature Dialogue and Capitals Collaboration Day



We Value Nature – Dialogue:

The We Value Nature Dialogue brings together relevant platforms and networks from across Europe to discuss opportunities for collaboration and synergies.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for you to:

- Share what you are doing to accelerate the uptake of natural capital, nature-based solutions and green infrastructure in business decision-making;
- Share your experience of what works and what doesn't;
- Discuss what more is needed; and
- Explore how We Value Nature can help.

Capitals Collaboration Day 2019:

Coalition organizations and partners will gather to discuss the latest trends identified in natural capital, and to explore successes and challenges in the natural capital approach over the last 12 months. During this Collaboration Day, the community will explore ways in which the natural capital community can support post-2020 initiatives such as Business for Nature, and collaborate with other communities to achieve impactful post-2020 commitments and outcomes. The Collaboration Day will also explore the concept of a 'multi-capital world', and how the success of the natural capital approach can inform this broader capitals approach.

Both the **We Value Nature Dialogue** and the **Capitals Collaboration Day** will take place on **6 November** and are invitation-only events. The We Value Nature Dialogue takes place immediately before (and will feed into) the Natural Capital Coalition's Capitals Collaboration Day, held at the same venue. To register for either or both events, please contact us at bianca.brasil@cbd.int and natalie.paruzel.intern@cbd.int. Please note that the availability of seats is subject to capacity.





Mark your Calendars – European Business and Nature Summit



The two-day Summit, taking place on **7 and 8 November**, will bring together key representatives from businesses, financial institutions, governments, and civil society to facilitate more decisive global action to halt the loss of biodiversity and restore healthy ecosystems. It will provide:

- A forum to discuss the most recent progress made by businesses and financial institutions to better account for their impacts and dependencies on nature and make informed decisions to generate net positive impact;
- An opportunity to strengthen political ambitions to protect biodiversity and shape the New Deal for Nature and People;
- A regional stepping stone in the global run to the post-2020 biodiversity framework as regards business for nature and corporates contributing to protecting biodiversity and natural capital; and
- An opportunity to engage a wide European audience in addressing biodiversity loss.

Please register [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).

Additionally, **We Value Nature** will hold two training sessions during the European Business and Nature Summit. The first session will take place on **7 November from 2pm-3:15pm**. It will provide an introduction to natural capital, why it is important for businesses, as well as suggestions for businesses to move forward in the natural capital journey. Please register [here](#).

The second session, “Train the Trainer”, will be held on **8 November from 3pm-5pm** and it will equip business associations and natural capital advocates with skills, knowledge and resources to teach their members and colleagues on how to integrate natural capital into business decision-making. The training session will take a deeper dive into We Value Nature with effective training activities and messages. Please register [here](#).





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