



Press Brief

Business and Biodiversity

Why is this important?

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) is pursuing a comprehensive strategy designed to more deeply engage the business community with the Convention, and to fulfill decisions taken at the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10/COP 11). This strategy will apply beyond COP 12 and seeks to create a programme of work that can continue to 2020 and beyond. Stemming from these decisions and strategy, and building upon earlier work, the business programme is undertaking a fairly ambitious series of activities (often in conjunction with partners) which are important in helping to raise awareness and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem management amongst companies as well as driving the business engagement agenda. Main activities include:

- **Development of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity:** The Global Partnership stems from decisions taken at COP 10 and COP 11 and highlights the global community's increasing understanding that business needs to play a critical role in addressing serious environmental problems, such as biodiversity loss. Essentially a network of networks, the Global Partnership links together various National and Regional Initiatives, allowing them to share information and best practices, and cooperate on common projects. These Initiatives link together businesses, government and other key stakeholders so as to encourage information-sharing and mainstreaming of biodiversity by businesses at the national level. Currently, 16 National and Regional Initiatives are members of the Partnership, with others preparing to join.
- **Development of Global Commodity Impact Indicators:** The Secretariat has brought together various stakeholders to develop a set of impact indicators for biodiversity arising from commodity production. From the work to date, it is known that there are a relatively small number of key impacts that cut across most commodities and that represent the majority of negative impacts (i.e. habitat and biodiversity loss or deforestation). The goal is to identify these key impacts and create a set of global commodity impact indicators for production that reduces the key impacts of all commodities on biodiversity and ecosystems. This will be done in cooperation with stakeholders from partner organisations, NGOs, governments and businesses. A multi-step process will be put in place to assess what sorts of standards and indicators already exist, to examine what sorts of impact indicators are applicable, and then compile and disseminate this information to stakeholders in governments and the commodity business community.

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- **Evaluation of Tools and Mechanisms:** The Secretariat has been engaged with various partners in efforts to evaluate the effectiveness and use of the various tools and mechanisms. Some of this work has been published in the CBD Technical Series (#63 and 73).
- **Sustainable Public Procurement:** The Secretariat began a collaborative effort with partners to look at the issue of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural capital in public procurement. The SCBD is part of UNEP's Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative (SPPI), which is the 10YFP on Sustainable Public Procurement. This network of governments, businesses and civil society promotes worldwide implementation of SPP and a better understanding of its potential benefits and impacts.
- **Information dissemination:** The Business.2020 newsletter magazine has been published by the CBD Secretariat since COP 8 in 2006.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The Government of the Republic of Korea (and other partners) is planning an extensive programme of business-related activities. A three-day series of business engagement events will include a High-Level Segment, a business and biodiversity workshop, a meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, and several media/launch events. The overall theme of the business forum will be "Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Innovative Opportunities for Business" and will look at practical methods for businesses to play a role in the overall objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Issues under consideration tie in with the Korean government's concept of the Creative Economy. This concept prioritizes the sensible use of natural resources for development gains as well as ideas and technology that help safeguard biodiversity and forge a more sustainable and creative path for economic growth and development.

Day 1 of the forum will be dedicated to several parallel events aimed at different business stakeholder groups (i.e. biotrade, tourism, commodities, the Global Partnership). Days 2 and 3 will focus on an exchange of creative practices aimed at showing how businesses can contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, including through mainstreaming biodiversity into business practices. Discussions will demonstrate economic opportunities related to biodiversity for business as well as look at different aspects of the challenges that companies face. In particular, these events should help and encourage businesses to understand how to better engage with, and implement, biodiversity-related initiatives. The events should further encourage governments and other stakeholders to create the correct enabling conditions to facilitate these opportunities.

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