

20/20 Talks on Biodiversity

PERSPECTIVES / SOLUTIONS / OPPORTUNITIES



Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and the natural patterns it forms. Biodiversity is the basis for our livelihoods – our health, wealth and many of the comforts we enjoy.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is hosting, from 2-18 October 2013 in Montreal, three major United Nations meetings on biodiversity. In conjunction with these meetings, experts from Montreal and around the world will give a series of talks on the role business, science and traditional knowledge play in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Plan, which comprises a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious targets known as the Aichi Targets, serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY (3 October 2013, Concordia University, 19h-21:30, MB10. 121 - John Molson School of Business)

Businesses are at the “sharp end” of ecological impacts, as they are directly or indirectly involved with extracting, growing or otherwise producing and processing items modern economies depend on. Today, a good track record in sustainable management and policy is crucial for any business to maintain good standing with increasingly critical consumers and may also be a requirement for managing risk and creating opportunities.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & BIODIVERSITY (8 October 2013, HEC Montreal, 19h-22:00, Amphithéâtre Lévis – Decelles Building)

Traditional Knowledge refers to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment. Today, there is a growing appreciation of the value of traditional practices as models for policy and practice related to conserving and sustainably using biodiversity.

SCIENCE & BIODIVERSITY (15 October 2013, McGill University, 19h-21:30, Redpath Museum)

Science shows that solutions can be found in healthy ecosystems. It unveils innovative technologies such as biosynthetics and biotechnology, informs important concepts such as Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), and provides new perspectives on unresolved issues, such as the ecosystem approach to eradicate Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Newly discovered genetic resources hold the answers to humankind’s ailments and needs.



Presented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaboration with McGill University, Concordia University & HEC Montréal



SESSION 1: BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

(Concordia University – 3 October 2013)

Engaging the business sector is increasingly being recognized by stakeholders as critical for the successful realization of sustainable development. Businesses are very often at the “sharp end” of ecological impacts, as they extract, grow or otherwise produce and process items upon which modern economies depend. But even companies with business models not directly dependent upon natural processes (ecosystem services) can have significant indirect impacts. For some industries profitability depends directly on the health of ecosystems; for example forestry, fishing, agriculture and ecotourism. Other sectors directly impact ecosystems and biodiversity through their operations, such as mining, construction and energy. For these companies, a good track record on sustainability management is crucial for obtaining operating licenses and maintaining good stakeholder relations. Industries such as cosmetics and pharmaceuticals also depend on biological material and genetic resources in the creation and manufacture of their products. Even the financial sector is exposed to risks caused by biodiversity loss, due to insurance claims and poor (or negative) returns on investments caused by natural and man-made disasters and made worse through environmental degradation.

AGENDA:

- 19:00** Opening remarks (SCBD/Concordia University)
- 19:10** **Paul Shrivastava**, David O’Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, Concordia University
- 19:30** **Rajendra Dobriyal**, Hindustan Unilever Ltd.
- 19:50** **Howard-Yana Shapiro**, Mars Inc.
- 20:10** **Claude Fromageot**, Yves Rocher
- 20:30** **Tim Hodges**, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada
- 20:50** **Claudia Ituarte-Lima**, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University
- 21:10** Panel Discussion, Q&A
- 21:30** End of Session

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; it contributes to local livelihoods, economic development and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction. It is also a central component of many belief systems, worldviews and identities. But despite its fundamental importance, biodiversity loss continues. It is against this backdrop that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2010 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to inspire broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. It serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The plan comprises a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 ambitious targets, known as the Aichi Targets. In recognition of the urgent need for action the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

The series of talks held in Montreal, in conjunction with three major United Nations meetings on biodiversity, focuses on many of these targets. The speakers will each give a presentation on a target of relevance to the areas covered in each conference.

- **BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY**
(3 October 2013: Concordia University)
- TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & BIODIVERSITY
(8 October 2013: HEC Montréal)
- SCIENCE & BIODIVERSITY
(15 October 2013: McGill University)



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SESSION 2: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND BIODIVERSITY

(HEC Montréal, Decelles Building – 8 October 2013)

Traditional knowledge refers to the innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities around the world. It tends to be collectively owned and takes various forms, including stories, songs, cultural values and beliefs which are often reflected in the local language and agricultural practices. Traditional knowledge is mainly of a practical nature, particularly in such fields as agriculture, fisheries, health, horticulture, forestry and environmental management in general. There is today a growing appreciation of the value of traditional knowledge. Most indigenous and local communities are situated in areas where the vast majority of the world's genetic resources are found. Some of their practices have been proven to enhance and promote biodiversity at the local level and aid in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Their skills and techniques also provide valuable information to the global community and as a useful model for biodiversity policies. The international community recognizes the dependence of many indigenous and local communities on biological resources, and there is broad recognition of the contribution traditional knowledge can make to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

AGENDA:

- 19:00** Opening remarks (SCBD/HEC Montréal)
- 19:10** **Gladman Chibememe**, Chibememe Earth Healing Association (CHIEHA)
- 19:30** **Stephanie Meakin**, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada
- 19:50** **Chrissy Grant**, Indigenous Advisory Committee
- 20:10** **Vital Bambanze**, Sénatuer au Parlement du Burundi
- 20:30** **Maria Yoanda Teran Maigua**, Andes Chinchansuyo
- 20:50** **Malia Nobrega**, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)
- 21:10** **Douglas Nakashima**, Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge, UNESCO
- 21:30** Panel Discussion, Q&A
- 21:50** End of Session

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SESSION 3: SCIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY

(McGill University – 15 October 2013)

Science is fundamental in further developing our understanding of biodiversity. Scientific research allows us to better understand the complex relationships between species, ecosystems and genes, and the links between biodiversity and human wellbeing. Science is also crucial for informed policy development. Natural science disciplines provide the fundamental building blocks for understanding our planet. Social sciences, particularly those related to human behavior, motivation and political ecology, hold the key to being better able to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. While science allows us to further develop our understanding of biodiversity and increases our ability to monitor changes to it, biodiversity also opens up exciting opportunities for further research. The development of medications based on genetic resources derived from biodiversity, the use of biomimicry to develop new products and the use of natural infrastructure for coping with the effects of climate change are all types of applications based to some degree on biodiversity. The inspiration that biodiversity provides to research has the potential to greatly improve human wellbeing.

AGENDA:

- 19:00** Opening Remarks (SCBD/McGill University - Prof. Andrew Gonzalez)
- 19:10** **Stanley T. Asah**, College of the Environment, University of Washington
- 19:30** **Paul Leadley**, Laboratoire d'Ecologie, Systematique et Evolution, University of Paris at Orsay
- 19:50** **Jake Rice**, Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- 20:10** **Piero Genovesi**, IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group
- 20:30** **Nick Davidson**, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- 20:50** **Ben ten Brink**, Netherlands Department of Nature, Landscape and Biodiversity
- 21:10** **Dr. Roberto Cavalcanti**, Secretary of Biodiversity and Forests, Ministry of Environment, Brazil
- 21:30** Panel Discussion, Q&A
- 21:50** End of Session

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