



## **CANADIAN BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL**

### **Activity Summary 2015**

In 2015 the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council examined new ways, in light of the changing environment for Canadian business, to address current conservation needs on both a national and global basis. Some of these thoughts focused on how to take better advantage of current knowledge and conservation tools and to develop stronger collaboration nationally and internationally (including business/business, business/government, business/NGO/academia).

Businesses that are actively involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources are increasingly, through open forums and associations, providing guidance and support to businesses that are looking to incorporate conservation elements into their management plans and policies. It has become more apparent that the linkages and interdependencies between biodiversity and climate change need to be further explored and incorporated into the conservation planning and actions of Canadian business. This will become an important focus for CBBC in 2016 as we will make it easier for business to understand biodiversity and the dependencies, risks and opportunities associated with it. We will use these ideas to clarify and strengthen the business case for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

#### **Specific CBBC Initiatives in 2015:**

##### **Support for a Business and Biodiversity Initiative in Peru (Canada-Americas Trade Related Technical Assistance – CATRTA)**

The objective of the project was to help build capacity for the Peruvian Initiative "Biodiversidad y Empresas" (ByE). This Initiative is led by Peruvian Ministry of Environment and its purpose is to encourage and facilitate conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in business operations.

- March 10/11, Lima, Peru: National Workshop To Include Aspects Of Biodiversity In Business Management
  - The purpose of the workshop was to share ideas and experience to assist in the development and implementation of the operational aspects of the Peruvian ByE Initiative. It was as a relatively small-scale and comprehensive working session intended to provide well-considered input to a much larger event scheduled for July. In addition to the Canadian experts organised by the CBBC, Peruvian participants included businesses, NGOs, government agencies and academia.
- July 14/15, Lima Peru: International Forum on Biodiversity and Business
  - The purpose of the forum was to build a constituency base for the ByE, with the main internal leadership and drive coming from the Peruvian business community. The content and structure was derived from recommendations arising from the March 10/11 Lima Workshop. The forum included participants from Canadian and Peruvian businesses, government, NGOs and Academia.
- Strategic document

- Through the collaboration of the CBBC and the implementation team of the Peruvian business and biodiversity Initiative, ByE, a document was developed setting out the key strategic directions and alternatives resulting from all activities of the project and building upon the ideas and work already undertaken by Peru. The scope of the document also incorporated gender dimensions and its relationship with biodiversity conservation.

#### Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

- The Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council completed its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year term as the Chair of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. The Council will remain as a member of the Executive Council for an additional year (2016) as an advisor to the new Chair and Executive Council.

#### 2015 CBD Business Forum

- November 11/12, Helsinki, Finland: Practices, Solutions and the Way Forward
- November 12, Helsinki, Finland: 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Global Partnership
- November 13, Helsinki, Finland
  - Biodiversity & Business Reporting Technical Workshop
  - Workshop for The CBD Initiative on Biodiversity Impact Indicators for Commodity Production

#### Ontario Biodiversity Summit

- May 19/22, Niagara Falls, Ontario: Protecting What Sustains Us
  - Attended and panelists on the Engaging People: Business and Biodiversity Session

#### Peruvian Barcode of Life

- March 9, Lima, Peru: National Workshop On Barcode DNA
  - Attended and presented on Canadian business perspective

#### Biodiversity ScoreCarding

- A draft biodiversity ScoreCarding technique was developed and is ready for testing. A trial run was completed with the energy sector (hydroelectricity) in Peru and will be followed up with an in-depth project that will include several businesses, government departments and academia in 2016.