



## **POLISH BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM**

### **Report on major activities in 2015**

#### **Activities of the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform in 2015**

##### **Launching and development of the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform**

The Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform (the Polish Platform) was officially launched in June 2015. The Polish Platform is operated by the Polish Foundation Business for Biodiversity, a Polish non-governmental organisation based in Warsaw, Poland.

The primary purpose of the Polish Platform is to promote, encourage and integrate business for the implementation of international, EU and national programmes and strategies for the protection of biodiversity. The Polish Platform promotes and fosters business models based on the integration of ecosystem services and biodiversity aspects into business management. The Polish Platform's offer is addressed to entrepreneurs in Poland, who share a vision of doing business in a sustainable manner, taking into account biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Polish Platform brings together business leaders, professionals, academia with the support of national and EU institutions. Our goal for the coming years is to support entrepreneurs in the creation and development of sustainable business models and brands, by:

1. supporting communication between the business community, professional and scientific communities, institutions as well as national and international organisations,
2. disseminating information about the biodiversity and its importance for entrepreneurs, and
3. enabling knowledge sharing about successful approaches and practices concerning the sustainable use and integration of ecosystem services into business management (best practices).

##### **National and international cooperation and memberships**

The Polish Platform managed to start cooperation at the national level with the most important Polish institutions responsible for the implementation of the biodiversity strategies in Poland.

###### *National cooperation and patronages*

We were very proud of the fact that the development of the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform has been granted the honorary patronage of the Minister of the Environment. The Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform was officially supported by the General Director for Environmental Protection.

###### *International cooperation and memberships*

The Polish Platform joined also the international community that works on the biodiversity issues with businesses around the world. In 2015 the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform became an official member of the EU Business and Biodiversity Platform with the status of a national platform as well as a member of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Initiative which is supported by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2015, representatives of the Polish Platform participated in the second Annual Conference of the EU B@B Platform took place on 27 October 2015 in Brussels, with over a hundred participants. The

conference was a great opportunity to network with other members of the Platform and representatives of European business.

In November 2015, representatives of the Polish Platform participated in the 2015 CBD Business & Biodiversity Forum that took place in Helsinki. The Forum was an exceptional opportunity to network with other business and biodiversity organisations around the world.

#### Organisation of the First Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum

The First Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum entitled "Ecological Intelligence in Business" took place on 16 June 2015, in Warsaw. The Forum was organised by the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform under the patronage of the European Commission as a 2015 Green Week satellite event. The Forum officially inaugurated activities of the Polish Platform.

The Forum brought together representatives of the public institutions, high level managers of the largest Polish companies and multinational corporations, representatives of Polish and European financial institutions. Among the guests of honour of the Forum was Mr. Maciej Grabowski, Minister for the Environment, Mr. Piotr Otawski, Deputy State Secretary, Chief Nature Conservator and Ms. Laure Ledoux, a representative of the European Commission, Deputy Head of Biodiversity Unit, DG Environment.

The Forum has also started a legal and economic discussion on the effective use of biodiversity in business operations. Polish business joined the global discussion on this topic not only in the traditional context of nature preservation compliance but as a potential revenue earner and a significant operation cost-cutting.

#### **Projects of the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform for 2016**

The Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform is working on its next projects. The discussion that started at the First Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum in Warsaw, in June last year, continues. As part of the capacity building campaign for 2016 addressed to Polish business, the Polish Platform is working on a set of projects aiming at achieving three targets for 2016. Below we present some of the upcoming projects for the next months.

#### Second Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum

The Second Polish Business and Biodiversity Forum will take place in June 2016. It will be an event at which representatives of major international corporations and Polish companies will discuss the integration of biodiversity into business strategy, and a new business model. It will be addressed to representatives of the boards and executives of the biggest Polish and foreign companies.

#### Strategic legal opinions and analysis

The Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform activities focus on raising the awareness of Polish entrepreneurs in the field of biodiversity. Companies need to have strategic knowledge about the current and proposed changes in legislation system resulting from implementation of biodiversity regulations, business risks and opportunities. The Polish Platform works on legal analyses that are aimed to address the issue to what extent specific industries and companies are prepared for the upcoming legislation changes and further, how they can benefit from the existing or future legislation regarding biodiversity as well as mitigate the risk associated with new trends and legislation.

### Business and Biodiversity Report on five industry sectors

The Polish Platform plans to finalise its work on a detailed analysis of the existing and proposed regulations (EU, international and national legislation), review of existing legal restrictions relating to the use of biodiversity resources in business, and an indication of the specific risks and opportunities for the sector/industry. The analysis will be presented in a form of the First Business and Biodiversity Report. The Report will be developed within the Polish Business and Biodiversity Platform, by lawyers, in cooperation with industry associations, specialists from a given industry and leading companies in a given sector.