

## **Finland's Business and Biodiversity Initiative**

### **Activity report for 2018 to Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity**

#### Natural Capital Training Program:

The main part of Finland's Business and Biodiversity initiative is a Natural Capital Training program that has been organized five times already, the first being organized in 2014. The training program is a collaboration between FIBS and the Finnish Environment Institute, and funded by the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. Each year ten new companies start the training, and this year already 50 companies have finished it successfully. The training program is directed to big Finnish companies or Finnish subsidiaries of International companies in all fields of business that are dependent on nature. The largest construction companies, grocery store chains and major players in the food, forestry and textile industry in Finland have all taken the training.

The training consists of four full day training sessions, starting with understanding the concepts and identifying important ecosystem services for the participating businesses moving on to understand their dependencies, risks and business possibilities arising from biodiversity. In 2017 The Natural Capital Protocol was incorporated to the training. All training sessions are interactive and consists of lectures held by specialists, mostly from the Finnish Environment institute, business cases and group assignments.

The training program has been a success right from the beginning. It has gotten great feedback from the companies and gathered international attention. Many of the participating companies have created own biodiversity programs that have in some cases spread internationally.

#### Publication:

As a part of the training program all the companies have written a paper about their connection to biodiversity, that have been gathered to a publication in the end of each year. The first publication from 2014 was also translated to English and can be found [here](#)<sup>2</sup>. This year the stories will be published one by one in a weekly series in the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019.

#### Yearly seminar on business and biodiversity

In the beginning of each year FIBS organizes a seminar to present the results of last year's training and to bring the latest news on the subject to our member's knowledge. The key note speaker of the seminar this year was from the Finnish bank OP, who is the first Financial institution that took the training. It was discussed how biodiversity should be better considered in the Financial sector.

#### About FIBS

FIBS is Finland's leading corporate responsibility network. We help companies in making better business: we provide information on new innovative ways to develop sustainable business and offer unique networking opportunities with companies from different sectors as well as with other organizations. Our services include events, training, thematic groups, news and information services, and Diversity Charter Finland. FIBS has currently nearly 300 members, most of which are large companies. <http://www.fibsry.fi/fi/english/home>

#### Further Information

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