



Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity: National and Regional Initiatives Report

The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity: National and Regional Initiatives Report will serve as a guide for existing and future initiatives to refer to. It will include information from all initiatives on all the points seen below. The purpose of this report is to have the most essential and pertinent information about GPBB initiatives in one place, for easy access and visibility, as well as the up-to-date information as the annual report in each initiative's webpage. Because the makeup of each national and regional initiative is different, we hope this report highlights the key characteristics that comprise the GPBB initiatives.

1. General Information

Profile
<u>Description:</u> Please include a brief summary of the initiative while mentioning the date of creation, who it represents, and its main purpose.
<p>Please answer here:</p> <p>The Sri Lanka Business and Biodiversity Platform was established in August 2012 as a collaborative initiative by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), and Dilmah Conservation, responding to global calls to engage the private sector in biodiversity conservation. Initially launched as a knowledge-sharing and networking platform for businesses committed to sustainability, the Platform evolved into an active national-level initiative promoting nature-positive business leadership.</p> <p>In October 2015, the Platform was incorporated as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and rebranded as Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL). It has since grown to become the private sector-led biodiversity platform of Sri Lanka, engaging businesses from multiple sectors in conservation, sustainable development, and ecosystem restoration.</p>

Vision
<u>Description:</u> Please summarise the initiatives' vision in one sentence.
<p>Please answer here:</p> <p>A state of harmonious co-existence of business and nature, where natural resources are harvested to optimum levels while biodiversity and the environment thrives.</p>

Mission
<u>Description:</u> Please summarise the initiatives' mission in one sentence.
Please answer here:



To mainstream biodiversity to the core business of companies through transformational approaches which involve multiple stakeholder collaborations as well as local, regional and international interactions.

Objectives

Description: In point form, please include the main objectives of the initiative.

Please answer here:

- To add economic value to biodiversity conservation and integrate it into the core business of companies.
- To promote national cooperation and exchange of ideas and information relating to biodiversity conservation.
- To strengthen and increase the involvement of the private sector in biodiversity conservation.

Funding, Budget and Resources

Description: Briefly describe the funding aspect of the initiative, including membership fees, external funding, donations, funding through events, etc.

Please answer here:

The organisation is funded by membership fees, sponsorships, and projects.

Services and Activities

Description: In point form, please include the main services and activities that the initiative provides. These can include projects, events, workshops, information sharing, resource mobilisation, capacity building, programme development and implementation, case studies, policy recommendations, indicators and methodologies, etc.

Please answer here:

- Access to Knowledge Resources: Members receive access to an exclusive repository of biodiversity knowledge, reports, and best practices tailored for corporate sustainability.
- Networking and Collaboration: Join a network of like-minded companies dedicated to responsible environmental stewardship. Members are invited to regular BSL networking events, where they can share insights, discover partnership opportunities, and gain visibility.
- Opportunities for Involvement in Projects: BSL members can participate in or initiate impactful biodiversity projects in Sri Lanka, ranging from species conservation and habitat restoration to community engagement and eco-friendly innovations.



- **Brand Visibility:** As a BSL member, companies are recognised as environmentally responsible leaders in the business community. Members have the opportunity to showcase their projects on BSL's communication channels and receive support for promoting biodiversity initiatives.
- **Advisory Services:** Gain access to expert advisory sessions and specialised services that help align corporate actions with national and international biodiversity conservation priorities and sustainable development goals.
- **Tailor-made training:** BSL provides tailor-made training on demand for corporates interested in specific types of training on biodiversity-related topics through the BSL Academy using its resource pool.

BSL also leads high-impact multi-partner projects like:

- The LIFE Series (e.g. Life to Our Forests; Coral Reefs; Mangroves; Beaches; and National Parks)
- The EU SwitchAsia PLASTICS Project
- Development and implementation of the National Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Roadmap

Membership and Governance

Description: Please describe the membership and governance structures of the initiative, including the executive body, types of membership, levels of engagement and any associated organisations.

Please answer here:

The membership and governance structures of Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) are as follows:

Membership Structure:

BSL offers two main types of membership, each catering to different levels of engagement in biodiversity conservation:

- **General Membership:** Ideal for companies new to biodiversity conservation or seeking to expand their sustainability initiatives. Benefits include access to events, workshops, training sessions, networking opportunities, knowledge-sharing resources, and learning from experienced corporates involved in environmental projects.
- **Patron Membership:** Ideal for companies with existing biodiversity programmes aiming to enhance their impact through advanced collaborations and leadership roles. Includes all General Membership benefits, plus priority access to BSL-led initiatives, prominent logo visibility on the BSL website, leadership opportunities in collaborative projects, and access to strategic consulting sessions.



Levels of Engagement: Members can participate in or initiate biodiversity projects, ranging from species conservation and habitat restoration to community engagement and eco-friendly innovations. Tailor-made training sessions are available for corporates through the BSL Academy. Members are encouraged to sign up for a five-year membership period at a discounted rate.

Governance and Associated Organisations: BSL was founded as a collaborative initiative by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Dilmah Conservation, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Associate Members include IWMI, GIZ, UNDP, and the Embassy of France.

The executive body or governance structure is not explicitly detailed in the document, but the initiative is led by its Outreach and Communications Lead, Thilal Nanayakkara, who serves as the focal point for membership-related inquiries.

BSL provides a platform for corporate leaders to engage in biodiversity conservation, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among environmentally responsible organisations.

2. Annual Updates

Businesses your initiative represents

Description: Please indicate the businesses that your initiative represents. Please provide a **full list** of their names and the total amount of businesses that are represented.

Please answer here:

As of 2025, BSL is backed by:

- Over 30 Patron Members
- Over 50 General Members

With representation from key industry sectors namely: banking and finance, engineering and construction, hospitality and tourism, ICT, manufacturing, plantations and agribusiness, as well as the wider services sector.

Representation is highest from the Banking and Finance, Hospitality and Tourism, and Plantations and Agribusiness sectors.

Membership is open to national and multinational companies, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and associate members such as UNDP, GIZ, IWMI, and others.

Highlights of Work in 2024

Description: Please highlight outstanding works in 2024.



Please answer here:

- Officially registered as a Voluntary Social Services NGO under Act No. 31/1980, reflecting formal recognition of our work.
- Expanded membership across seven business sectors—including banking, tourism, plantations, manufacturing, and more—building a diverse leadership network for conservation.
- Formalised a government partnership via an MoU, anchoring BSL’s strategic collaboration with national environmental bodies.
- Collaborated with global institutions such as UNDP, GIZ, IWMI, and UNGC, amplifying our technical reach and credibility across national and international forums.
- Revived degraded rainforest in Kanneliya, achieving verification under the Ecosystem Restoration Field Standard.
- Rehabilitated mangrove ecosystems within the Anawilundawa Ramsar Sanctuary using science-based NBS, backed by public-private partnerships.
- Coral reef conservation: Engaged communities and private sector partners and the Department of Wildlife Conservation to rehabilitate reefs at Kayankerni, supported by marine experts and Blue Resource Trust.
- Coastal Cleanup: Expanded beach restoration across 14 stretches, engaging companies and volunteers to remove thousands of kilograms of waste.
- Working according to the EPR Roadmap for plastic waste management in Sri Lanka, with enthusiastic endorsement from industry and regulatory institutions, laying the groundwork for the national EPR portal under the PLASTICS Project.
- Strengthened academia-industry linkages, contributing to the establishment of a Business and Environment Honours Degree at the University of Colombo.
- Hosted annual technical sessions, CEO forums, and learning events—connecting experts, members, and government for targeted ecosystem dialogue.

These milestones reflect BSL’s unique role in bridging private sector ambition, government leadership, and community action—advancing Sri Lanka’s biodiversity with scientific rigour, sustainable thinking, and collaborative innovation.

Looking ahead, our platform continues to focus on scalable, measurable impact—aligning business, policy, and public interests toward a biodiverse, regenerative future.

Reports, Platforms, or Publications Launched in 2024

Description: Please indicate reports, platforms, or publications launched by the initiative in 2024, if any.

Please answer here:

The BSL Corporate Profile: <https://shorturl.at/z9Oho>.

Planning of Work in 2025

Description: Please indicate the initiative’s remarkable work in 2025.



Please answer here:

The adoption of the Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) Strategy for 2025-2030 marks a significant milestone as BSL aligns its initiatives with the 23 global biodiversity targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Starting in 2025, this strategy emphasises actionable pathways to contribute to the 2050 Vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature." It focuses on protecting and restoring ecosystems, fostering sustainable biodiversity use, ensuring equitable benefit sharing, and mobilising resources and collaboration, while addressing Sri Lanka's unique ecological and socio-economic context.

Please provide the information below:

Website: <https://biodiversitysrilanka.org/>

Focal point (one or two):

Shiranee Yasaratne

Senior Advisor

shiranee@biodiversitysrilanka.org

Thilal Nanayakkara

Outreach and Communications Lead

thilal@biodiversitysrilanka.org