

Leaders' Breakfast: Innovative Solutions to Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Economic Sectors

When: Thursday, November 15th, 8.00am – 9.30am

Where: Bureau Conference Room, Sharm El Sheikh International Congress Center
(SHICC)

What: Debate on innovative solutions for mainstreaming biodiversity into key
economic sectors

Participants include: Ministers of Environment of Egypt, Estonia, Finland,
Executive Secretary of the Convention of Biodiversity, CEO of GEF, Director
General of IUCN, President of WWF, Vice-President of the World Business
Council for Sustainable Development, CEO of We Mean Business,
representatives from ExxonMobil, Provital Group, Shell, Total amongst others.

Over the last 50 years, 60% of the world's ecosystem services have been degraded. Today, 87% of the world's fisheries are overexploited while deforestation and food production systems collectively account for almost 40% of carbon emissions. Realizing the value of protecting and restoring biological diversity has the potential to unleash new economic opportunities and promote natural capital approaches to developing and managing healthy economies.

The Leaders' Breakfast will identify innovative solutions for mainstreaming biodiversity into energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors. Designed to encourage open and lively discussions, the Leaders' Breakfast will provide a unique opportunity for Ministers, senior policy makers as well as a select group of leaders from the private sector and non-governmental entities to exchange experiences and good practices in incorporating ecosystem and biodiversity considerations in business models and operations. The outcomes of the Leaders' Breakfast will feed into the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum.

**For any questions, please contact Ms. Charlotte Ndakorerwa (charlotte.ndakorerwa@un.org)
and Mr. Andreas Obrecht (andreas.obrecht@un.org)**

This event will take place during the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 (14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity). More information can be found in the concept note: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-14/parallel-meetings/Concept-Note-Leaders-Breakfast-on-Innovative-Solutions-to-Mainstreaming-Biodiversity-into-Key-Economic-Sectors.pdf>

For more information on the upcoming fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly, the highest-level decision making body on the environment (11-15 March 2019, Nairobi, Kenya), please visit <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/>

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 (14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity) will take place from 17-29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Among the key items on the agenda of the Conference is the mainstreaming of biodiversity into key economic sectors; including energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing. In this context, the High-level Segment of the Conference, to take place on 14-15 November, will focus on the theme of “Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet”. The High-level Segment will address such mainstreaming for sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In parallel to the High-level Segment, a two-day Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity will also take place to consider the role of business in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the above-mentioned sectors.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors, mentioned above, is critically important since these sectors have a significant impact on ecosystem functions, services and other resources provided by nature. Biodiversity contributes to the global and local economy and to our human development in different ways, therefore it is important to fully recognize the multiple values of nature to society. By protecting and restoring ecosystems as well as sustainably using biodiversity, significant economic opportunities can be unlocked. The potential shifts in our economic models, with nature focused perspectives, are critical components of a circular economy and natural capital approaches.

Objective of Leaders’ Breakfast

The Leaders’ Breakfast will take place the morning of 15 November 2018, before the High-Level Segment and the Global Forum on Business and Biodiversity. Its focus is on innovative solutions for mainstreaming of biodiversity into energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing. The aim of the Breakfast is to reinforce the message of the Business and Biodiversity Forum, with a view to inform the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 and the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (11 -15 March 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya). The UN Environment Assembly is the highest-level decision-making body on the environment within the UN system. The Assembly will be held under the theme of: “Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”.

Designed to encourage open and lively discussions, the Leaders’ Breakfast will provide a unique opportunity for Ministers, senior policy makers as well as a select group of leaders from the private sector and non-governmental entities to exchange experiences and good practices in incorporating ecosystem and biodiversity considerations in business models and operations, through innovative, collaborative, and scalable approaches.

Structure of the Breakfast

The Breakfast will start with an opening discussion with H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Siim Kiisler, President of UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia and Dr. Cristiana Paşca-Palmer, Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity.

The facilitator of the Breakfast will then open the floor for discussion, asking invited participants to share insights on innovative solutions for mainstreaming of biodiversity into the economic sectors that are under discussion at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The facilitator will close the meeting by highlighting key takeaway messages.

The Breakfast is by invitation-only and will create a setting for participants to address issues of common concern in a frank and stimulating discussion in order to reinforce the messages from the Business and Biodiversity Forum to UN Biodiversity Conference 2018.

Expected outcome

The key takeaway messages of the Leaders' Breakfast will feed into the UN Biodiversity Conference 2018 as well as the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly, which will take place in March 2019.

Facilitator: Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment

Agenda 15th November

8.00 – 8.25	The discussion will start with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt• H.E. Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler, President of the UN Environment Assembly and Minister of Environment of Estonia• Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of Convention on Biological Diversity
8.25 – 9.25	Facilitated discussion to identify innovative solutions to mainstream biodiversity into manufacturing and extractives
9.25 – 9.30	Conclusions and takeaways by the facilitator Mr. Jorge Laguna-Celis, Director, Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment