



The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

Activities report 2016/2017 by member initiatives



Name: 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative www.business-and-biodiversity.de – including information on the German platform “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020” (“Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020”) – Platform for Action and Dialogue between Business, Government and Nature Conservation www.biologischevielfalt.de/UBi_2020.html (German only, [brief profile in English](#))

Country: Germany, with membership beyond Germany



In 2008, the company network 'Biodiversity in Good Company' was founded as a pioneering international business and biodiversity initiative and later on became a member in the newly established CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. In 2013, "Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020" ("Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020"), initiated by the Federal Environment Ministry, was set up as a broader dialogue and action platform for business federations, nature conservancy organizations and authorities in Germany in order to encourage exchange, cooperation and tangible action. 'Biodiversity in Good Company' is both a partner and the coordination office for this round table and represents the platform in the CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

1. Meetings of members and of the board

- Short description: Regular meetings of the board; two members meetings annually; regular conference calls with members abroad (Japan)
- Outcomes: strategic development of the association, working on various topics, mutual learning
- Further steps: will be continued

2. Progress reports of members companies

- Short description: 'Biodiversity in Good Company' is a forum for exchange of experience and knowhow, joint activities and creating awareness for the goal of biodiversity conservation. At the same time, by joining the network, every company expresses its individual commitment to improving its biodiversity performance. The members are frontrunners, take responsibility and want to inspire other businesses to do so, as well. Thus, signing the Leadership Declaration and reporting on its implementation in progress reports every two years is at the core of the initiative and quite unique.
- Outcomes: demonstration of solutions and challenges – see reports under <http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/about-us/members/progress-reports/>
- Further steps: will be continued

3. New members

The following new member companies joined in 2016/2017: einhorn Products; Erlebnisbauernhof Gertrudenhof; STAEDTLER; Symrise; BahnLog

4. Outreach strategy: Further expansion of the platform “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020” (“Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020”) on various levels

- Short description: In addition to the company-driven ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ Initiative, the “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020” approach is about mobilising further business action by creating a round table for a variety of stakeholders. *(Please refer to 2015 report and to top of this document.)* In 2016 and 2017, many efforts for mainstreaming were undertaken. The platform was significantly expanded and activities intensified.
- Partners: Federal Ministry for the Environment and German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (lead and funding of the whole process); all supporting organisations of the “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020” platform ; DIHK Service GmbH (responsible for involving the Chambers of Industry and Trade, and the Chambers of Craft)
- Outcomes, among others:
 - Three platform meetings in 2016 and 2017 each – discussing various topics and pushing the business and biodiversity agenda
 - 13 new supporting organisations acquired – now 35 supporters involved
 - Dialogue forums 2016 and 2017 (see below)
 - regular “info mailings” for all supporters with contributions of supporters (organised and edited by ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ together with DIHK Service GmbH)
 - Survey among all supporters (in 2017) on their understanding of business and biodiversity, their role and (potential) activities. The survey was conducted by ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ and included a separate part with a focus on supply chain issues.
- Further steps: will be continued

5. Events: „Diskussionsforum Ökosystemleistungen“ (Discussion Forum Ecosystem Services)

- Short description: The [„Diskussionsforum Ökosystemleistungen“ \(Discussion Forum Ecosystem Services\)](#) is series of evening “fireside events”, launched in autumn 2014 in Germany. It serves as an open discussion forum where interested stakeholders from business, politics and society are invited to debate the opportunities and risks of the ecosystem services approach and of valuing natural capital.
- Partners: ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ together with environmental NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), and two partners from academia, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). We hope to help achieve more clarity on where the economic valuation of nature, ecosystems and their services makes sense and where it has its limits or would even be counterproductive and dangerous.
- Outcomes: five events in 2016 and 2017 on various topics, [documented in German](#)
 - 11 April 2016, Berlin – pollination
 - 23 May 2016, Frankfurt/Main – urban ecosystem services
 - 17 October 2016, Berlin – ecosystem services in the light of international responsibility
 - 5 December 2016, at CBD COP 13 in Cancún, Mexico – examples from Germany and Mexico
 - 22 May 2017, Frankfurt – water
- Further steps: planned to be continued

6. Events: German Annual Business Dialogue Forums on Biological Diversity (Dialogforen “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020”) in 2016 and 2017

- Short description: On 15 March 2016 and on 23 March 2017 each almost 150 representatives of companies, leading business associations, nature conservation organizations, government and authorities, academia and civil society gathered in Berlin for the 6th and 7th German Business Dialogue Forum on Biological Diversity. The dialogue forums are the annual events of “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020” (UBi 2020 - “Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020”), the dialogue and action platform for business federations, nature conservancy organizations and authorities in order to encourage exchange, cooperation and tangible action. The conferences were organised by the ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ – one of the supporters as well as the coordination office of “Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020”.
- Outcomes: for conference documentation in German see www.ubi2020-dialogforum.de
- Further steps: conferences in 2018 and 2019 also to be organized by ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’

7. Events: CBD COP 13 in Cancún, Mexico, December 2016

- Short description: As a partner of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, the ‘Biodiversity in Good Company’ Initiative participated in CBD COP 13 with various activities.
- Partners: especially IBBI India Business and Biodiversity Initiative for a joint side event
- Outcomes: Support for the CBD Business and Biodiversity Pledge; Participation in the CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum 2016 on 2/3 December 2016; Side Event on 5 December 2016 on “Mainstreaming biodiversity in companies”. Further information: <http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/activities/international-activities/cbd-cop-13-in-mexico/>
- Further steps: prepare next CBD COP activities

8. Participation in various events - awareness raising and capacity development

- Short description: In 2016 and 2017, representatives of the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative participated and/or gave speeches in more than 30 biodiversity-related events and conferences in order to disseminate information and raise awareness for the role of business for the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Partners: various
- Outcomes: awareness raising
- Further steps: will be continued

9. Position paper "Mainstreaming the Topic of Biodiversity in Corporate Sustainability Management – Experience and Recommendations from the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative"

- Short description: On the occasion of CBD-COP 13, 'Biodiversity in Good Company' published a position paper advocating better integration of biological diversity in corporate sustainability management. We focus our attention on decision makers in companies, politics and society who play a part in reaching the ambitious Aichi targets in joint efforts. In particular, we call on companies to integrate biodiversity within their business activities and actions, and to provide an insight into success factors, as well as challenges in their effective realisation.
- Outcomes: awareness raising, defining fields of actions and priorities
- Further steps: dissemination

10. Completion of the small series of information modules "Basic knowledge for companies"

- Short description: What do companies have to do with biodiversity and how should they get involved? "Basic knowledge: companies and biodiversity" is a series of short, cross-industry information modules for companies interested in finding out more on this topic. The modules offer guidance, suggestions and advice, helpful not only for large, but also smaller businesses. Two further publications were made available in 2016.
- Outcomes: see <http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/activities/biodiversity-management/einstiegswissen/>
 - Module 4: "Green, greener, greenest? Biodiversity as a topic for credible corporate communications"
 - Module 5: "In good shape for the natural environment: working with the workforce to protect biodiversity"
- Further steps: dissemination

11. Participation in advisory boards/project-related advisory committees

- Short description: 'Biodiversity in Good Company' is often invited to bring the business perspective to biodiversity-related (research) projects and processes
- Partners: diverse
- Outcomes:
 - Appointment to the Advisory Council for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management of the Land of Berlin (18th legislative term) by the Senator for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection of the Land of Berlin Regine Günther (constituent meeting 02.11.2017)

- TEEB DE - Natural Capital Germany, project-related committee (completed 2017)
 - Science-Policy Advisory Board of the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig
 - Europarc Deutschland, "Valorisation of Climate and Nature Conservation Measures in the National Natural Landscapes", project-related advisory committee
 - EU-Project BigPicnic (Food Security), Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin (together with a total of 14 Botanical Gardens), advisory council
- Further steps: will be continued

12. Participation in national and international networks

- Short description: Next to several bilateral partnerships, there are three main networks on the national, European, and global level in which we participate.
- Partners:
- Germany: „Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020“ (UBi 2020) – partner, coordination office
 - Europe: EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform of the European Commission – member
 - CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity – member; until 2016 member of the Executive Committee
- Outcomes: networking
- Further steps: will be continued
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Please briefly describe what activities and projects you are planning for the coming year:

We will continue with the described spectrum of activities. One thematic focus will be on biodiversity in the supply and value chains. The next German Annual Business Dialogue Forum on Biological Diversity will take place on 13 March 2018 in Berlin. In 2018, the 'Biodiversity in Good Company' Initiative will celebrate its 10th anniversary.