

# ***THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY***

## **Information Newsletter – Volume I, Issue I - April 2013**

Welcome to the first edition of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity Information Newsletter. Since its inception at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2010, the Partnership has been gradually growing, with several countries having joined and many others expressing interest and working on developing national initiatives.

With the growing number of participants, there has been a realization that a more regularized method of communication would be useful to keep members informed of developments and activities, and provide a forum for sharing information. This newsletter will be sent on a monthly basis and is meant to provide a brief summary of activities. As the group gets bigger, and depending on feedback, we will adjust the format and periodicity of this publication accordingly.

We welcome your input to this newsletter. If you have something that you wish to highlight and share with the group, we can certainly ensure that it featured in the next edition. We are designing a new portal in the Global Platform website which can also support this information sharing. We will provide more details when it is fully deployed. Also, the magazine *business.2020* continues to be a forum for exchanging information and case studies. Our next edition of *business.2020* will be out in early May. Stay tuned.

In this edition:

- Current Status of the Global Partnership
- Preparation of the third meeting of the Global Partnership
- Updates from National Initiatives  
(Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, South Africa)

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## **Current status of the Global Partnership**

The Global Partnership has seen a significant influx of interest over the past few months. The present status of members is as follows:

### **Countries/Regions with member initiatives:**

- Brazil (Iniciativa Brasileira de Negócios e Biodiversidade)  
<http://ibnbio.org/>
- Canada (Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council)  
[www.businessbiodiversity.ca/](http://www.businessbiodiversity.ca/)
- European Union  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/index_en.html)  
(Funding for this platform is in flux and we are awaiting word on its possible future)
- France (Oree)  
[www.oree.org/](http://www.oree.org/)
- Germany (Biodiversity in Good Company)  
[www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/)
- Japan (Japan Business and Biodiversity Partnership)  
[www.bd-partner.org/english/](http://www.bd-partner.org/english/)
- Netherlands (Leaders for Nature Netherlands)  
[www.leadersfornature.nl/netherlands.html](http://www.leadersfornature.nl/netherlands.html)

- South Africa (Full structure to be determined)

**Countries/regions developing initiatives and have indicated an interest in joining:**

- Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Korea, India, Namibia, Peru, Portugal, Rwanda , Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, ASEAN, Central America

**Other Countries/regions that have expressed interest:**

- Denmark, Philippines, New Zealand, Switzerland, Micronesia, Francophone Africa

As part of the ongoing development of the Partnership, several members are currently developing a *Governance Document* to outline the goals and the structure of the Global Partnership. A draft will be circulated once completed.

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## **Preparation of the third meeting of the Global Partnership**

The third meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, to be co-hosted by the *CBD Secretariat* and the *Canadian Business and Biodiversity Council*, is scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada, on 2-3 October 2013. The draft agenda is attached to this email.

This meeting will focus on various issue-specific questions of importance related to the business and biodiversity portfolio, including: Access and Benefit-Sharing; Safeguards and Mechanisms; and Life Cycle Assessment. It will also examine biodiversity and sustainability issues from the perspective of various business sectors including: Agrifood, Extractive Industries and Retail/Consumer Goods. Finally, it will examine some of the COP 11 decisions and how these might be advanced in preparation for COP 12. These include: Standards, Sustainable Public Procurement and Engagement of Stakeholders. The sessions will be structured in a broadly similar fashion, with keynote speakers, a panel discussion of experts, followed by an interactive discussion with participants to help discern their questions, concerns and interests in moving the subject forwards.

There will also be a closed session for the members of the Global Partnership (i.e. representatives of current and developing national and regional initiatives) to discuss administration of the Partnership, future joint projects and ways of strengthening the cooperation and synergies that the Partnership is designed to foster.

We are still at the early stages of finding speakers and welcome your input. If you have any ideas please forward them to:

- Reg Melanson ([reg.melanson@businessbiodiversity.ca](mailto:reg.melanson@businessbiodiversity.ca)) and David Steuerman ([david.steuerman@cbd.int](mailto:david.steuerman@cbd.int))

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## **Updates on initiatives**

*(We invite submissions for the next newsletter from all members and those developing national initiatives)*

## Brazil



In February, the Brazilian Initiative on Business and Biodiversity (IBNB) had the opportunity to host a breakfast meeting with Mr. Bráulio Dias at CNI – Brazilian Confederation of Industries and current Executive Secretariat for the IBNB - headquarters in Brasília. The primary objective of the meeting was to present Mr. Dias with the main goals for IBNB in 2013, the next steps and a calendar of events. The Executive Secretary also discussed the strategic role of the Global Partnership and asked for IBNB's help with engaging neighboring countries.

The IBNB is invested in helping the CBD promote its Business Programme within South America. As a result, two events are currently under development that should help leverage the Global Partnership on the continent.

- The Brazil Workshop on Business and Biodiversity, scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in October, is a follow-up to the two previous editions held in 2011 and 2012 and should attract several companies to discuss business engagement and some sensitive subjects.
- The Chilean Workshop on Business and Biodiversity, scheduled to take place in July in Santiago, will be the first event promoted by the CBD in partnership with the Brazilian Initiative and should provide an excellent opportunity for launching discussions on Chilean organizations interested in setting up their own national initiative.

## Canada



### **Business and biodiversity needs survey**

- This survey examines the tools and knowledge required by business to implement biodiversity conservation into their management policies and practices. The information will be used to help direct the Council in the development of a new business plan and strategy. This survey will couple with the information gained from a previous survey that looked at biodiversity data needs of business.

### **Determining ecological footprint**

- This is a Master's student project that was run through the University of Western Ontario and focused on the SME group. The project reviewed the existing footprint tools available to business, rated the tools for ease of use, comprehensiveness and relevance to Canada. The project also provided an outline for a footprint tool/document for Canadian SMEs.

### **Biodiversity offsets/conservation banking**

- The Council is creating a working group to look at biodiversity offsets and conservation banking as not only tools for biodiversity conservation purposes, but as an accredited process – business needs to get credit for these activities. The Council is interested in getting opinions from other jurisdictions and sharing the results. It has also been suggested that a side meeting be organized at the October meetings, where a small group of interested individuals could meet for discussions.

## France



The French non-profit Orée and the French Farmers' Society (Société des Agriculteurs de France, SAF), organized a meeting in Paris on 8 April 2013 that discussed various issues concerning the rural environment. Adapting the countryside to the city is a dynamic subject that has become a reality for many urban dwellers. Vancouver, New York, Berlin, London, Paris and Nantes are all cities where urban agriculture projects are flourishing through, for example, shared gardens or educational farms. Urban

agriculture not only allows citizens to regain contact with the ground and biodiversity, but also to support local and high-quality agriculture, improve the link between urban and rural people and develop a “green” agriculture culture. As living conditions in large cities increasingly become more complicated, this domestication of nature can also soothe the environment in which urban dwellers live. Additionally, it is important to note that such a project can become a source of job creation and a support for the processing of food distribution.

**Germany**



### **Creating a new dynamic platform for action and dialogue between business, government and nature conservation**

Many companies in Germany contribute to biodiversity protection as mandated by law and many of these have joined the Biodiversity in Good Company initiative. Yet major challenges for mobilizing broad business action remain. Against the background of the target year 2020 of the Strategic Plan and Decision X/21, the German Government is increasing its efforts to expand sustainable and structured dialogue with business in order to mobilize further commitment beyond Germany’s current advanced regulations.

Germany is comprised of many business federations, nature conservancy organizations and (public) authorities. A new project, Unternehmen biologische Vielfalt 2020, initiated by the Federal Environment Ministry and set up as a network for these groups in order to encourage exchange and cooperation, was officially launched during the 5th National Forum on Biodiversity in Berlin on 5 March 2013. The Forum, attended by German Federal Environment Minister Peter Altmaier, included high-level representatives from the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The new platform aims to:

- Implement the German National Strategy on Biological Diversity by creating a long-term sustainable structure as a new interface
- Complement existing activities, such as the Biodiversity in Good Company initiative, by taking a broader approach, i.e. to reach those not yet committed
- Focus on systematically involving business federations (cross-sectorial and sector-specific) and using the wealth of organizations for creating synergies
- Hold dialogue and take tangible action on the basis of voluntary commitment (CSR) to strengthen the diversity of nature and landscapes in Germany through integration of economic, environmental and societal values.

The Biodiversity in Good Company initiative plays two essential roles: It is one of the supporting organizations of the platform and an active member of the Steering Committee (which is a subgroup of all partners), where it represents the interest of its member companies. It also, with a possible start-up date of June 2013, is supposed to serve as the Coordination Office for the entire process.

### **Biodiversity in Good Company initiative and econsense – Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business to start management indicators for biodiversity working group**

The Biodiversity in Good Company initiative ([www.business-and-biodiversity.de](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de)) and econsense – Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business ([www.econsense.de](http://www.econsense.de)) is establishing a new working group on biodiversity indicators, due to start in June 2013. While it is challenging and complicated to integrate biodiversity as well as the linkage of business activities to ecosystem services into corporate environmental or sustainability management systems, the Biodiversity in Good Company initiative and econsense are two business networks that deal with these questions. According to the two business networks, the aim of the working group is to combine know-how, skills and capacities in order to make a contribution based on the operational experience and perspective of the companies. The central

question will be which of the already existing approaches are feasible, and have a chance of being successfully implemented. The outcome of the joint work is not predefined and will have two dimensions to it: supporting the companies themselves in acquiring information and expertise, while also contributing to the general debate on biodiversity indicators. The working group is scheduled to begin with an analysis of the current situation/gap analysis. The next step will be an assessment, and, where applicable, a further development of existing approaches of biodiversity management indicators will be carried out. The project contributes to the new platform *Unternehmen biologische Vielfalt 2020*.

### **Biodiversity in Good Company cited as exemplary UN Decade project**

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. As part of its National Strategy on Biological Diversity, Germany has developed a comprehensive communication strategy to help make the UN Decade a success. Several activities stretch beyond the national implementation process in order to make more people aware of the need to conserve biodiversity. To that end a good practice award scheme was also established (See: [www.un-dekade-biologische-vielfalt.de/2080.html](http://www.un-dekade-biologische-vielfalt.de/2080.html)).

The Biodiversity in Good Company initiative as a business network was named an exemplary project at an awards ceremony held 22 February 2013 in Germany in the presence of Dr. Kilian Delbrück, Head of Division, General and Fundamental Aspects of Nature Conservation, DG Coordination, Federal Environment Ministry. His colleague, Nicola Breier, responsible for international cooperation on biodiversity, also offered her congratulations to the initiative.

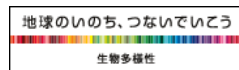
### **Collaboration agreement between Biodiversity in Good Company and Fundación Biodiversidad**

In January 2013 Biodiversity in Good Company and Spain's Fundación Biodiversidad (Biodiversity Foundation) signed a collaboration agreement on cooperation and networking. Fundación Biodiversidad, established in 1998 as a public foundation of the Government of Spain, is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. It works to preserve the natural heritage and biodiversity, directing its conservation toward generating employment, wealth, and well-being in all of society, with special attention given to rural settings. In the context of international Spanish commitments as a CBD Party, the environment ministry commissioned the foundation to establish and develop a Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative in 2013. The Biodiversity in Good Company initiative supports this process by sharing its own experience as one of the first initiatives of this kind worldwide. Both institutions aim to network on a regular basis and explore ways of cooperating in future projects.

Fundación Biodiversidad: [www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es/](http://www.fundacion-biodiversidad.es/)

Information on cooperation: [www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/partners.html#c7557](http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/partners.html#c7557)

## **Japan**



The Japanese Business and Biodiversity Partnership recently published the results of its 2012 questionnaire survey. For the results please see: [www.bd-partner.org/wp-content/uploads/survey\\_report\\_2011\\_en1.pdf](http://www.bd-partner.org/wp-content/uploads/survey_report_2011_en1.pdf)

## **Netherlands**



### **Leaders for Nature annual forum a great success**

Over 240 business representatives from all Leaders for Nature (LfN) member companies (working in company teams), together with representatives from IUCN members, the Dutch Government (with a team of several ministries) and the European Union joined together to develop action plans on 'incorporating natural capital in their core business'.

### **Leaders for Nature executive dinner sets strategic agenda on natural capital**

In early February business leaders from LfN companies, together with directors of IUCN member organizations and the Dutch minister for Agriculture, discussed options to scale-up and fasten the transition to a sustainable green economy.

### **Leaders for Nature master class 'creating sustainability champions' at member company Eneco**

Business representatives from LfN companies received training to incorporate natural capital into their daily work.

### **Upcoming events**

- 13 May: Leaders for Nature Forum follow-up event (closed session) at Shell Headquarters in The Hague. The LfN member companies will present their action plans on natural capital for 2013-2016
- 22 May: Biodiversity on business areas, hosted by the Port of Amsterdam
- 27 June: Corporation 2020 and disclosing externalities.

### **South Africa**



- South Africa is planning to launch its corporate guidelines for the mining sector on the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May). The guidelines are the result of the combined efforts of numerous partners, spearheaded by the Chamber of Mines and the South African Mining and Biodiversity Forum (SAMBF), an innovative business and biodiversity platform that exist in South Africa. The launch is being endorsed by two Ministers, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs and the Minister of Mineral Resources. This is quite important as South Africa is known for its immense mineral wealth and has a history of mining underpinning the national economy. These guidelines show the political will and commitment between the two sectors to walk this path together towards sustainability. South Africa is looking to also have a side event at the 3rd Global Partnership meeting where it could launch or distribute the guidelines.
- A National Workshop on Biodiversity Offsets, scheduled for 15-16 April 2013, will provide an opportunity to engage with the business community and other stakeholders to discuss this important concept as well as serve as a public participation of the draft National Biodiversity Offsets Framework. Other events include discussions on the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 and its implications for the biodiversity sector.
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust ([www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)), in collaboration with the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and with the support of founding partners Pick'n Pay, De Beers, Hatch, Nedbank, Eskom and Transnet, will launch the National Biodiversity and Business Network in South Africa, in alignment with the model of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity. The network aims to facilitate engagement with various business sectors, industries and related stakeholders to facilitate and assist the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into business agendas and operations. It is designed to be an open and inclusive network geared towards raising awareness of biodiversity and sustainability issues amongst the business community and to encourage dialogue amongst stakeholders in this area, as well as to provide pragmatic and practical support to facilitate the mainstreaming process. It will be a multi-sectorial network but information should be focused upon common issues concerning biodiversity.
- The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), in collaboration with the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), organised its second business talk of 2013 on mainstreaming biodiversity into business: a strategic discussion. The talk was part of a series of talks and events being held throughout the year to initiate a strategic and corporate dialogue on the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business. The theme for the second business talk was: The National Development Plan: Vision 2030 and the 2013 Budget: Strategic Implications for Business in Managing the Natural

Capital. The talks include short presentations, a panel discussion on the topic in addition to short presentations on the content of the budget and the National Development Plan and a panel discussion on the topic with representatives from the National Treasury, the National Planning Commission, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and from ENS.

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### **The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity**

The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity stems from the ongoing engagement of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the business sector as mandated in CBD COP decisions X/21 and XI/7. The CBD Secretariat, along with various partners, has been endeavoring to “*encourage establishment of the national and regional business and biodiversity initiatives by facilitating a forum of dialogue among Parties and other Governments, business, and other stakeholders, with a particular focus on the global level*”. The overall mandate of the national initiatives is to “*...encourage dialogue amongst stakeholders...and to help raise awareness of biodiversity and sustainability issues amongst the business community. They should also work to assist companies in understanding and mainstreaming the goals of the Convention and the Aichi Targets*”.

### **Links**

Global Platform on Business and Biodiversity: [www.cbd.int/en/business/home](http://www.cbd.int/en/business/home)  
*business.2020*: [www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/default.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/default.shtml)  
Convention on Biological Diversity: [www.cbd.int/](http://www.cbd.int/)

For information on the Global Partnership (and how to contribute to this newsletter), please contact: David Steurman at [david.steurman@cbd.int](mailto:david.steurman@cbd.int)

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