



Global Partnership

for Business and Biodiversity

Information Newsletter – Volume 4, Issue I – April 2016

Welcome to the spring 2016 edition of the *Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity* newsletter. 2016 promises to be a busy year for the Partnership, particularly with a number of major upcoming events including the IUCN World Conservation Congress (*see here for some information on the Congress for business from IUCN Director General Inger Andersen www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPkhKqwDW7I*) and the CBD COP 13, which will include the CBD 2016 Business and Biodiversity Forum. The Secretariat is involved in preparations for both of these events, and will provide ongoing updates to the Partnership. Many members will also have been contacted as part of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre's (UNEP-WCMC) survey of the Global Partnership. Once this study is completed, the results will be forwarded to the Partnership. In addition, we would like to thank members for the submission of your annual reports on activities in 2015. The reports are available online at: www.cbd.int/business/National_Regional_BB_Initiatives.shtml.

Finally, as usual, we would like to draw your attention to the newsletters produced by the various initiatives in the Global Partnership that go into greater depth in describing their interactions with their membership. These include:

- *European Union:* http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/business/news-and-events/newsletters/index_en.htm
- *Germany (Biodiversity in Good Company):* www.business-and-biodiversity.de/index.php?id=1331
- *India:* <http://eepurl.com/brLTB5>
- *South Africa:* www.ewt.org.za/BUSINESSDEVELOPMENT/news.html
- *Sri Lanka:* <http://business-biodiversity.lk/media-center/>

If we have missed your newsletter, or if you are planning on launching one, please let us know and we will be sure to feature it in future editions.

We look forward to receiving your submissions for the next edition of this newsletter, to be released in summer 2016.

In this edition:

- Executive Committee Corner
- Update on the 2016 CBD Business Forum and 6th Meeting of the Global Partnership
- Information from Partner Organizations (*IUCN, the Wildlife Habitat Council*)
- Updates from National/Regional Initiatives (*ASEAN, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka*).

Executive Committee Corner

Message from the Chair

Dear Members of the Global Partnership,

It has been a busy start to 2016 in what looks set to be a very exciting year. I see the Global Partnership potentially entering a period of growth and raised expectations. However, I believe that we still need to better define what kind of organization that we want, and how we can increase the efficiency of its functioning.

To this end, the Executive Committee has been working on a draft for a work plan for the Partnership based on some proposals, ideas and questions that we have put forward.

As you can imagine, building up a plan that comprises different views, experiences and expectations is not an easy task and might take longer than anticipated. However, the goal here is to build a plan that takes into account different inputs from the Executive Committee members and to ensure that is achievable and reasonable at the same time it takes into account different realities from our member initiatives.

We will keep you posted as to our progress.



Update on the 2015 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum

Date

2-3 December 2016

Location

Cancun, Mexico

The CBD Secretariat is working with the Government of Mexico to put together the 2016 CBD Business and Biodiversity Forum. The Forum will occur immediately prior to the start of the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the CBD, which will be taking place 4 – 17 December 2016. The Forum will run in parallel with the Ministerial High-Level Segment of the COP.

Interactive panel discussions are planned on the following thematic and sectoral topics:

- Financing
- Natural Capital Accounting
- Supply Chains and Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Climate, Biodiversity and Business
- Access and Benefits Sharing
- Partnerships and other Innovative Approaches for Biodiversity Conservation
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Tourism.

The idea for these panels is to keep them as interactive and interesting as possible, with fewer and shorter speeches/presentations and more discussion both amongst the panellists and with the audience. In addition to these specific panels, there will be several keynote speeches and discussions during the opening and closing plenaries. The Forum will also feature the 4th UNCTAD Biotrade Congress and the 6th Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

Global Partnership members have been contacted regarding ideas and inputs for speakers and high-level (CEO) participants, as well as any comments on the selected topics. Additional information and updates on the Forum will be made available at: www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2016.shtml.

In addition, documents for the upcoming first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, where the draft recommendations for the COP 13 business decision will be initially considered, can be found here: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBI-01.

Information from Partner Organizations

In this section, we invite submissions from all global partners who are observers to the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Making the case for a Net Positive Impact on biodiversity

Exploring how a Net Positive Impact (NPI) approach on biodiversity can enable the private sector to better manage biodiversity and contribute to global conservation is the focus of two new papers released today under the auspices of the NPI Alliance. The first paper, “Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity: The Business Case”, highlights the increase in voluntary commitments to NPI by the private sector during the past decade. Two major reasons cited for business uptake are the rise in government biodiversity offset regulations and financial institutions’ standards for biodiversity management. The NPI approach requires companies to take a systematic and scientific approach to evaluate their biodiversity impacts, establish biodiversity conservation goals and implement actions that actually achieve a biodiversity net gain over time. While the paper acknowledges that such an approach may entail some costs and delays for companies, it argues these far outweigh the risks of not applying NPI. The second paper, “Net Positive Impact on Biodiversity: The Conservation Case”, finds NPI has the potential to advance biodiversity conservation by, for example: integrating conservation into business policies and practices; supporting national-level conservation gains; and contributing to global conservation targets. However, it notes that the benefits of NPI will largely depend on the quality of its implementation and the enabling environments in which it is applied. Overall, the paper concludes, NPI is a promising tool for conservation, provided business and governments continue to address the risks and shortcomings seen in earlier biodiversity mitigation and offset efforts. The NPI Alliance was a cross-sectoral collaborative initiative with Rio Tinto plc, Shell Global Solutions International B.V., The Nature Conservancy and IUCN, with advisory support from the International Finance Corporation, which ended last year. For more information:

www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/business/bbp_work/collaborative_platforms/npi_alliance/.

IUCN is also currently drafting a Biodiversity Offsets Policy, which is expected to provide further guidance and input on advancing an NPI approach for biodiversity. The policy will be presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress being held in Honolulu, Hawai’i from 1-10 September 2016.

The Biodiversity Risks and Opportunities in the Apparel Sector

The fashion industry is contributing to the degradation of the world's biodiversity and undermining nature's ability to provide ecosystem services to society, according to a report released by IUCN. The report, *Biodiversity Risks and Opportunities in the Apparel Sector*, identifies the biggest culprits in the industry's value chain and puts forward recommendations on how companies can support biodiversity conservation, while minimising their own risks. The industry's significant impact on nature is rooted in the production of raw materials such as cotton, which uses water and pesticides intensively, or viscose, which uses wood pulp, contributing to deforestation. Manufacturing processes can also seriously affect nature – the dyeing and treatment of textiles, for example, produces around 17-20% of all industrial water pollution, as well as substantial greenhouse gas emissions. Clear conservation commitments are key, and should include deforestation-free value chains, promoting land restoration, substituting hazardous chemicals with less toxic ones, and sustainable water management, according to the report. Industry should also use credible certification schemes in its supply chains, develop a sustainable use strategy and integrate sustainability into the conceptual phase of product development, the report suggests. Drawing on discussions and lessons learned from IUCN's collaboration with Hugo Boss in 2015, the report proposes industry use a risk assessment framework. "Assessing the risk to biodiversity in a company's operations and supply chain is the most effective approach to managing and reducing biodiversity impacts," said Gerd von Podewils, Senior Vice President, Global Communication for Hugo Boss AG, which contributed to the report. The report acknowledges that the apparel sector's value chain is complex due to its global distribution and diverse range of sources and types of raw materials used, manufacturing facilities and consumer markets. Yet at each stage, unsustainable business operations pose risks to the company's overall performance. As the report confirms, positive action in this area can help reduce a company's risks and maximize benefits for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and local livelihoods. For more information: www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/business/bpp_news/?22406/Fashion-industry-must-urgently-reduce-its-impact-on-nature.

New Multi-Stakeholder Consortium Promoting a Landscape Approach

A new multi-stakeholder Consortium promoting a landscape approach is now underway in Brazil's Cerrado region. At a meeting in December, coffee growers and producers, researchers and environmentalists publicly pledged to work together to deliver positive conservation and socio-economic impacts at a landscape level under a new Consortium – Cerrado das Águas (Waters of the Cerrado). Following the launch, the Consortium's founding members -- IUCN, Nespresso, the Institute of Agricultural and Forest Management and Certification (IMAFLOA), the Institute of Ecological Research (IPÊ), the Federation of coffee producers of the Cerrado Mineiro and Brazil's largest coffee cooperative COOXUPÉ -- met to define an action plan and financing strategy for the next two years. The full story is available at: www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/business/bpp_news/?22481/A-collaborative-consortium-plans-to-promote-positive-impact-at-the-landscapelevel-in-Brazil.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC)



Conservation Conference 2016

Registration is now open for the Wildlife Habitat Council Conservation Conference 2016, November 2-3 in Baltimore. Join leaders in corporate social responsibility, environmental health and safety, government agencies and NGOs – who come together for a two-day experience of learning, networking and celebrating corporate conservation achievements.



Learn more and register at www.wildlifehc.org/knowledge-center/conservation-conference-2016/.

Conservation Academy

Wildlife Habitat Council Conservation Academy webinars and educational opportunities offer guidance and instruction on a wide spectrum of corporate conservation topics. WHC continuously improves and enhances their offerings to ensure they are relevant and timely.

- Upcoming live webinars in April include WHC Conservation Certification: Free Online Application Training. Register at: www.wildlifehc.org/knowledge-resource/whc-conservation-certification-free-online-application-training/
- Browse dozens of free on-demand webinars at: www.wildlifehc.org/knowledge-center/conservation-academy/
- WHC can create customized webinars on a conservation topic specific to a company's program. Contact fredick@wildlifehc.org to learn more.

All live and on-demand webinars are free of charge, thanks to sponsors ExxonMobil and General Motors.

Updates from Initiatives

(We invite submissions from all members and those developing national initiatives)

Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)



ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016 in Bangkok

More than 800 biodiversity stakeholders gathered in Bangkok, Thailand on 15-18 February 2016 for the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016 (ACB2016). This event, with the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development," was the second ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity, the first having been held in 2009 in Singapore. ACB2016 was opened by H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand; H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; and Atty. Roberto Oliva, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. ACB 2016 aimed to provide a forum to exchange perspectives on initiatives that address biodiversity issues in the region and to discuss steps forward in advancing the ASEAN biodiversity agenda within the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the newly adopted global



mandate on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The four major biodiversity concerns highlighted in the ACB2016 were as follows: (i) Progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and its linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (ii) Ecosystem-based approaches to manage critical ecosystems and biodiversity; (iii) Sustainable use and benefit sharing; and (iv) Business and biodiversity.

On 16 February, business leaders and representatives of civil society, academia and governments from across the ASEAN region, and other parts of Asia, assembled to discuss the significance of biodiversity and ecosystems to businesses, propose solutions to managing the growing business risk of biodiversity loss, and identify opportunities to engage the business sector in biodiversity conservation to ensure the sustainable supply of natural capital. This First Asian Forum on Business and Biodiversity was organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Secretariat of the CBD, and Birdlife International.

Plenary topics at the Business and Biodiversity Forum included: Biodiversity: What It Is, What's Happening to It, and Why It Matters to Society; Why Biodiversity Matters to Business; The Changing Relationship between Business and Biodiversity in Southeast Asia; Environmental Policy in Southeast Asia, ASEAN Integration and Convergence of Policies and Regulations; Financing Biodiversity: Business Implications and Business Responses; The Relationship Between Climate Change, Biodiversity and Business; Implications of Climate Change on Agricultural Production and Climate Smart Agriculture; and Business in South East Asia in a Changing World.

Key points and recommendations raised in the Business and Biodiversity sessions include:

- These issues are critical in the region, not only as it is an area of high natural capital, but it is a major producer for the whole world and production needs to be sustainable.
- The changes required will only be possible if business, government, academia and civil society work together to find and implement the solutions.
- There are existing mechanisms that we can build upon to make this happen; the thinking is already underway but much work still needs to be done to make it happen.
- Need to provide an enabling environment where everybody understands the need, but this will require information and tools
- Need to look for CEO Champions in the region to act as a nucleus in the evolution of business thinking for biodiversity conservation.
- CEO Leaders need to ensure that business platforms properly mainstream biodiversity into business thinking in their companies. Need to advocate for this to be a change in other businesses, policy and regulation
- ACB, ASEAN CSR and Business Councils for Sustainable Development in collaboration with partners need to move this agenda forward and take concrete actions.



The European Union



EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform – Workstream priorities for 2016

The EU B@B Platform is composed of three different workstreams (WS). Through these thematic workstreams, the Platform aims to deliver tangible results. It is working with business to develop tools and approaches that integrate biodiversity considerations into business practice. In this dialogue and knowledge sharing forum the European Commission is working with companies and financial institutions with an active interest to showcase and develop their work related to biodiversity as key element of their management of corporate social responsibility. Based on a consultation with its members, the following priorities have been identified for the Platform in 2016:

- ***Workstream 1 - Natural Capital Accounting:*** This year's WS1 will investigate the links between 'Net Impact' and NCA for businesses. The project will comprise a high level analysis, exploring the subject from various perspectives. As with previous years, it will be based on a literature review, an expert survey and a FM workshop. The study will explore:
 - Business, government and financial institution (FI) perspectives on the topic

- Corporate level applications
- Product level applications, and
- Site/project level applications
- **Workstream 2 - Innovation for Business and Biodiversity:** The objective of WS2 for 2016 is to identify enabling actions (policy, regulatory or supportive measures) required at EU level for the up-scaling of most promising innovations identified under the WS in 2014 and 2015, including:
 - Innovative tools for natural capital accounting and mapping to support land management decision-making, from AECOM (for National Grid) and Landmarc Solutions;
 - CDP EUROPE: an environmental reporting system for the food, beverage and agricultural value chain;
 - Innovation for reed bed biomass fuel and biodiversity by FIELDFARE;
 - Water micro-pollutant treatment innovations from SUEZ ('ZHART' constructed wetlands) and Dryden Aqua (Activated Filter Media - AFM); and
 - Temporary Nature innovation from Tractebel Engineering (ENGIE).

This work will include consideration of regulatory needs (new regulation, amendment of regulation, deregulation) and of standards and tools that could be developed at EU level. By articulating more clearly what needs to be done at EU level, and how this can be done, WS2 can help move forward these areas of innovation, for the benefit of both business and nature, and can thereby make a substantial contribution to the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy and broader EU growth and jobs objectives.

- **Workstream 3 - Access to Finance and Innovative Financing Mechanisms:** The objectives of the Finance WS are to:
 - Identify and profile biodiversity investment opportunities (e.g. pro-biodiversity business/certified products; biodiversity offsetting and habitat banking, PES schemes and bio-carbon markets, financial services);
 - Identify funds and financial instruments providing investment in biodiversity in the EU and worldwide.
 - Identify key actors in the financial sector championing integration of biodiversity into investment decisions.

This is a forum for sharing expertise inter alia with regards to making the business case for investments for biodiversity, developing financial products and mechanism that take into account dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and extending the risk management in financing in this regards. The principal objective of the 2016 work will be to build engagement with the finance sector on biodiversity issues. This will involve dialogue with finance sector companies and organisations with a view to engaging them in the work of the Platform. This will include examining the potential to develop a “Community of Practice” on biodiversity and finance at EU level.

If you have any questions on the work of the EU B@B Platform please contact the managers of the EU B@B Platform (Lars Müller within the European Commission (Lars.MUELLER@ec.europa.eu) and Jerome Kisielewicz within ICF International (Jerome.Kisielewicz@icfi.com)).

Finland 

The leading Finnish Corporate Responsibility Network (FIBS) is continuing to lead the Business & Biodiversity (B&BD) programme in 2016 in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment. The programme aims at creating public awareness about biodiversity and its importance, as well as helping companies to manage their impacts on the environment. The B&BD programme encourages companies to identify their key dependencies and impacts on ecosystem services. The programme includes open seminars, workshops and Master Class training. The latter enables the selected companies to deepen their understanding of ecosystem services. Twenty companies have already taken part in the Master Class training since 2014, and ten new companies are in the pipeline.

There are two key success factors for the positive and rewarding outcomes of the programme: firstly the B&BD initiative has led by an existing CR network instead of creating a separate organization for this issue. Secondly, we have seen broad stakeholder involvement and collaboration throughout the programme, which has resulted in the quality of work being strengthened. Executing the program through FIBS has enabled targeting of the right contacts that were already developing more general CR-related work. Moreover, broad stakeholder collaboration that includes ENGOs, business, government, universities and different associations, makes the results more transparent and provides new perspectives on the subject.

As a result of B&BD Forum 2015 held in Helsinki, Finland, the B&BD programme has initiated a number of new tools for 2016 such as: the Best Biodiversity Action of the Year Award; biodiversity as a new category of national CR reporting; and support for a CEO led sector network. Additionally, as an example of wider B&BD collaboration, the habitat banking programme of Finland will be piloted during 2016-2017.

France



Launch of the new version of the French Initiative Platform for Business and Biodiversity

The new version of the French Initiative Platform will be launched on 2 June 2016 at ORÉE's Annual Symposium. The platform's contents have been enriched with many resources, tools and cases studies. It aims to assist businesses in conserving biodiversity, both externally and through their operations, by encouraging the development and implementation of good practices, sharing knowledge and experience, and by showcasing their results. This makes it an invaluable resource for any company wishing to conduct business in a sustainable way or planning to focus its ambitions on integrating biodiversity issues in its strategy.

Work thesis: How to manage the interdependencies between organizations and ecosystems to ensure their co-viability?

The work thesis aims to analyze the different tools implemented by companies (voluntary approaches: environmental management systems, environmental certifications, voluntary regulation etc.), highlighting benefits (maintaining economic viability) and limitations (insufficient results from the perspective of the functioning of ecosystems). After highlighting the ecological weakness of conventional regulatory tools, the effectiveness of two other categories of tools is measured: Full Co\$t Accounting and Sustainable Cost Accounting. The voluntary approaches analyzed generally ensure the economic viability of organizations, but their environmental goals, the success of which are variable, often ignore the complexity of ecosystems. Thus, the work thesis objective is to elaborate an environmental management model, set to ensure shorter term SES viability. It relies, for its ecological effectiveness, on an adaptive management approach at the territorial level. The work thesis is being realized by Ionescu Ciprian, (PhD student).

New publication

In order to enhance the comprehension and appropriation of this work thesis by an external audience (businesses, managers, etc.), ORÉE will produce a special edition non-technical document intended for this audience. The publication will present the context of the study, and will explain the environmental management model: synthesis, strengths, and weaknesses of the management model for the sustainability of social-ecological systems proposed by Ionescu C. (2016).

Germany

German Annual Business Dialogue Forum 2016 on Biological Diversity (15 March 2016, Berlin)

On 15 March 2016, almost 150 representatives of companies, leading business associations, nature conservation organizations, government and authorities, academia and civil society gathered in Berlin for the 6th German Business Dialogue Forum 2016 on Biological Diversity. These dialogue fora are the annual events of "Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020" (UBi 2020 - "Enterprise Biological Diversity 2020"), a dialogue and action platform for business federations, nature conservancy organizations and authorities in order to encourage exchange, cooperation and tangible action. In 2013, the platform had been initiated by the Federal Environment Ministry together with the partners. This year's conference was organised by 'Biodiversity in Good Company' – one of the supporters as well as the coordination office of "Unternehmen Biologische Vielfalt 2020". Against the background of the mid-term reviews of biodiversity strategies around the world, the participants discussed aspects of national and international responsibility for biological diversity and various challenges for implementation and enforcement including trade-offs. Three parallel workshops in the afternoon focussed on current trends in environmental legislation, credible corporate communications on biodiversity, and greening company premises. The group of supporters of UBi 2020 has grown to 27 associations and organizations. Five new organizations from the fields of municipal enterprises, tourism, airports and horticulture joined the platform on the occasion of the annual conference: the German Airports Association (ADV), the German Roof Gardener Association (DDV), the German Travel Association (DRV), the German Tourism Association (DTV) and the German Association of Local Utilities (VKU). The Platform for Action includes 30 concrete activities in various sectors.



Basic knowledge for companies – new information modules

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. Now two further publications are available:

- 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"

More information can be found at: www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/activities/biodiversity-management/einstiegswissen/.

Japan

Mitsui Sumitomo and JBIB hold Ninth Business and Biodiversity Symposium

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company and JBIB (the Japan Business Initiative for Biodiversity) held its annual symposium on Business and Biodiversity, titled "Business Talking Biodiversity Part 9" on 23 February 2016 in Tokyo. As its name suggests it was the ninth symposium since 2007 and focused on the



business contribution towards 2020. This will be a big year for Japanese business, not only because it is the target year of the Aichi Targets, but also because Japan will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games recently announced its principles for Sustainable Procurement Code and are now preparing its detailed code. Therefore, the Tokyo Games are expected to be a big driver to spur the further development of sustainable procurement in Japan.

The symposium was attended by about 200 people, mostly from the business sector, with some representatives from NGOs and governments. Following the opening remarks by the Chairman, Mr.



SHIN Yoshiaki, two key note speeches were delivered in the plenary session. Dr. ADACHI Naoki, Executive Director of JBIB, spoke on the global trend and background of business and biodiversity and Mr. HARAGUCHI Makoto, Advisor of JBIB introduced the latest topic, Green Resilience and Innovation. A Parallel break-out session that followed the plenary covered three topics: “Developing cities in harmony with nature”, “Biodiversity conservation in transport infrastructures” and “Business and Biodiversity after newly revised ISO14001.” All three topics confirmed that

there are still new approaches being taken for business and biodiversity through which business can make greater contributions toward the Aichi Targets.

The Netherlands



The Dutch Platform for Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economy (BEE) is delighted to announce the international conference, Natural Capital: Let's talk business! The conference will be held 23-25 November 2016 at the Fokker Terminal in The Hague.

More and more businesses and financial institutions are taking responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. This impacts the way they conduct their business. Whether it is seeking profit in a greener economy or simply as a response to their intrinsic ambition to contribute to a more sustainable world. Platform BEE trusts that enough has been said about the need for change. This conference is designed to deliver: let's talk business!

The Natural Capital: Let's talk business! conference will allow participants to exchange experiences with business leaders, from CEOs to start-ups, as well as attend workshops, exhibitions and networking events. Keynote speakers include Shell Chairman Chad Holliday and Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition Chairman and former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Jan Peter Balkenende. The full and final event program is still being developed, but additional information can be found at: www.conference-naturalcapital.nl.

Spain



The Spanish Business and Biodiversity Initiative (SBBI) have been engaged in work streams in which public administration, civil society and business have the opportunity to work closely to improve biodiversity business management. These activities include:

- Ecological Restoration, with six companies of the SBBI (Endesa, Ferrovial, Gas Natural Fenosa, Iberdrola, LafargeHolcim and OHL) involved. These companies have already signed a public agreement with Fundación Biodiversidad (a Biodiversity Foundation and coordinator of the SBBI) of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, within the framework of the Spanish

Initiative, to develop a Practical Guide to Eco-Restoration. The Guide will be developed by a scientific coordination team, whose members have offered their knowledge and time to write this document. Various meetings are planned in the following months during which the draft texts will be prepared. The companies' contribution is not only economic, but also as collaborators, providing examples of best practices and case studies. The guide presents an opportunity to share and improve knowledge in eco-restoration.

- Transport and distribution of electricity infrastructures work stream. The three Spanish electrical companies involved in this working group (Endesa, Iberdrola y Red Eléctrica de España) met recently, with the aim of sharing the work between the parties and to advance the development of the project in a coordinated manner. The project seeks to design a tool that allows for the enhancement of positive ecological externalities and the optimization of the management and maintenance of electrical wires.

A new member company (Suez Water Spain) recently joined the SBBI. Water represents a new sector for the initiative. At present, 23 companies comprise the Initiative, which will celebrate its third anniversary in May 2016.



Launch of the Biodiversity Economy Lab

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has undertaken an extensive process to develop a Biodiversity Economy Strategy (BES). This strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in July 2015, is aimed at harnessing the South Africa's rich biological Diversity to foster the sustainable development imperatives of the country. The BES envisages a set of strategic actions for the biodiversity/wildlife economy which will respond to the broad priorities of government as articulated in the National Development Plan, the Medium Term Strategic Framework and the recent 9-point plan. These actions address a wide variety of constraints faced by the wildlife, bioprospecting and ecotourism industries separately, while still identifying responsibilities for government and the private sector. In parallel, several processes have addressed the challenges of the eco-tourism sector.

While extensive work has been done to develop a Biodiversity Economy Strategy, additional work is still required in bringing together all the relevant stakeholders (departments, communities and the private sector), prioritise initiatives with the most impact, and develop detailed implementation plans that can drive rapid action. In order to translate these ambitious plans into tangible outcomes, it is proposed that a delivery lab be convened for the purpose of further defining and articulating implementation plans. The Delivery lab approach uses the widely accepted and popular "Big Fast Results" as a methodology to translate country visions into reality. Delivery Labs are a highly effective tool to achieve rapid solutions to critical and complex issues at a country level. In addition, delivery labs are set up to create transparency, debottleneck and help resolve the most critical challenges facing a sector, and hence achieve key milestones faster than in a "business as usual" context. This is therefore an important opportunity to apply this successful methodology to the biodiversity economy.

The recommendation from the appointed service providers is to convene one Lab with sub-Labs on the following key focus areas: wildlife, bioprospecting, marine tourism, coastal and terrestrial ecotourism. The total number of participants is not expected to exceed 80 from a cross-section of the public, private and non-governmental sector that are involved full-time in one location for the required timeframe. In addition, a broader group of stakeholders will be consulted on specific topics and invited to two open days to evaluate progress and provide additional feedback. The main objective of the Labs is to define strategic options for different parts of the value chain for each focus area and identify what needs to be put in place by the government and other stakeholders to support these strategic options. Given the work that has

already been done on the Biodiversity Economy Strategy and the background information on the marine and coastal tourism aspects, it is anticipated that the delivery labs will take place over a period of four weeks.

Sri Lanka



Tech Tools for Conservation: Technical Workshop Series by Biodiversity Sri Lanka for the Corporate Sector

As one of its education and capacity building initiatives, Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) launched a series of workshops in November 2015, aiming to provide technical knowledge on key conservation subjects, for the membership of BSL as well as others interested.

The first workshop organized in partnership with Glide (Pvt.) Ltd. – a member of BSL – was held in November 2015. The workshop, entitled ‘Carbon Footprint Calculation Tool’, appraised the participants of the importance of being able to calculate an organization’s carbon footprint, and provided them with a simple tool, based on the widely accepted ‘GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard’, which provides the methodology for calculating an organization’s carbon footprint based on the organizational and operational boundaries of the company. The advantages of such a tool lies in the organization being able to implement mitigating activities to reduce their carbon footprint and exhibit greater social responsibility.

The second workshop of the series was concluded in February 2016, and was organized in partnership with the International Water Management Institute. This workshop was held as a three part workshop under the following topics: (a) Solid Waste and Septage: Resource Recovery and Reuse, (b) Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment Tool, (c) Environmental Flow Calculator: Making Water Allocation Decisions. The first component illustrated the need for adequate waste and sewage disposal and the adverse impacts caused by irresponsible disposal methods and went on to demonstrate a pilot model of reusing sewage through co-composting, whereby treated sewage is combined with organic waste matter to form dried pellets which act as safe fertilizers. This tool proved to be of great interest to participants especially from the plantations and agribusiness sectors. The second component demonstrated a model for Climate and Disaster Risk Assessments which was based on the Disaster Cycle: Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, and used satellite mapping of past and current climate conditions to map out future climate-related disasters. The final component – an Environmental Flow Calculator - provided a compromise between the quantity, quality and timing of water flows required to sustain ecosystem services (river health), human wellbeing and livelihoods that depend on these ecosystems, based on diversions such as dams and other structural developments along water bodies. This was of special interest to those representing hydropower generation companies. The uses of this calculator include being able to estimate necessary environmental flow releases downstream of mini hydro plants, estimating releases below abstraction/diversion points as well as to estimate releases below large reservoirs.

The next workshop in the series will be held in April 2016 and is being organized in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Sri Lanka Country Office. This workshop will illustrate the use of the IUCN Red List as an early warning system. The workshop will provide knowledge on the applications of the Red List as a means of identifying potential biodiversity risks and opportunities early. These species-based indicators would illustrate the benefits of addressing operational threats to biodiversity including cost savings through risk management during both planning and implementation of projects. There has been great enthusiasm for this workshop and the series as a whole, by members of BSL and non-members alike.